



CITY OF HOUSTON
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The Honorable Rafael Anchía
Chair, House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Broadband
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Chairman Anchía and Members of the Subcommittee,

The City of Houston ("Houston") appreciates this opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 4272 (HB 4272), which is set for a hearing on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Broadband.

House Bill 4272 would require municipalities to pay for the relocation of telecommunications and cable facilities located within public rights-of-way when needed for street widening, straightening, or other municipal projects. Specifically, the bill directs municipalities to use right-of-way compensation collected under Section 283.051 of the Local Government Code to cover these relocation costs.

This bill would impose a significant financial burden on municipalities at a time when Houston is facing major budget challenges. Access line fees collected under Chapter 283 were designed to compensate cities for the private use of public space, not to subsidize private companies' relocation expenses.

These fees are deposited into the general revenue fund and support a broad range of critical services, including police, fire, parks, drainage improvements, and road maintenance. Forcing cities to divert general revenues to fund the relocation of telecommunications facilities would take resources away from these essential services and slow down urgently needed street and drainage improvements.

By shifting the financial responsibility for relocation onto municipalities, House Bill 4272 would reverse a long-standing principle that utilities, not taxpayers, should bear the costs of moving their facilities when public projects require it.

The City of Houston values the opportunity to raise these concerns and stands ready to work collaboratively to improve the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Paez, Director
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