

# ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol



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March 6, 2017

## ACTION ALERT! CMTE VOTE EXPECTED ON POLE ATTACHMENTS

The [House Utilities](#) Committee is expected to vote Wednesday on [HB 656](#), a pole attachment and right-of-way bill that eliminates local control in rates, zoning, and maintenance efforts regarding so-called “small cell” wireless antennas and accessory equipment. Email your opposition to committee members on the bill ([found here](#)). On Feb 22, MPUA opposed the bill in testimony because it’s too broad and it gives carriers unrestricted access to electric infrastructure and other structures, i.e. street lights, stop signs, water towers, public right-of-way and any other public facilities. MML, Carthage, Springfield, Independence, Fulton, Cameron, Centralia, and Jefferson City joined MPUA in opposition. Last week, the vote was postponed as amendments from MPUA and the cable industry were considered. No action is expected this week on [SB 354](#) in the [Senate Commerce and Energy](#) Committee.

In a strange turn of events, the [Senate Local Government](#) last week voted out the bill limiting cities from expanding broadband for economic development and customer need ([SB 186](#)). [Sen. Kraus](#)

asked that the bill be voted on because he had “compromise language” from the municipals. Neither MPUA nor MML had seen the language. Google, a leading opponent, had seen language either. The changes made are cosmetic, and in some ways, make it harder for a municipal utility to be proactive in providing service for economic development purposes. The bill is detrimental to utilities seeking to lease fiber or provide retail service. We expect CenturyLink to begin amending the language to other bills. Please consider contacting your senator ([lookup here](#)), and the sponsor - [Sen. Emery](#), to inform them of your opposition. Also, please thank [Sen. Hegeman](#), the committee chairman, for voting against the bill.

MPUA made its annual trip to the nation’s Capital last week and met with Missouri’s delegation on municipal utility issues. The main topic was on the availability of tax exempt bonds. Contact Senators McCaskill and Bond, as well as your Congressperson, telling them of the importance of tax exempt bonds to your operations ([visit here](#)).

## LINKS

[Find Your Legislator](#)  
[House Session Dates](#)  
[Senate Session Dates](#)  
[MPUA Website](#)

## MPUA CALENDAR

**March 7 | 10 am**  
MAMU Legislative  
Committee Mtg  
*Gov. Office Bldg 315*

**March 8 | 10:00 am**  
Member Services  
Committee  
*MPUA Office*

**March 9 | 8:30 am**  
MPUA Board Mtg.  
*Hilton Garden Inn -  
Event Center*

## TRAINING

*Spring Tech 2016  
March 15– Rolla  
March 16 - Fulton  
[MORE INFO](#)*



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[www.mpua.org](http://www.mpua.org)

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

[MO lawmaker wants to shield private businesses from gov. competition](#) - Springfield News-Leader  
[KCP&L, Westar merger needs one last Missouri OK, as long as that comes quickly](#) - Missouri Times  
[Missouri The Latest State To Let Telecom Monopolies Write Awful, Protectionist State Law](#) - Tech Dirt  
[Greitens talks funding, budget at first full Capitol news conference](#) - Missourian  
[MO lawmakers propose HOA legislation, but critics say it won't protect homeowners](#) - Kansas City Star

## MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

**Representative  
Tracy McCreery  
D - District 88**



**Elected to House:**  
2011

**Committees:**  
Utilities, General Laws, and  
Agriculture Policy

**Lives In:** Olivette

**Tidbit:**  
In 2016, Representative McCreery was the recipient of MPUA’s Dick Malon Public Service Award. McCreery spoke out in 2016 to preserve community-led, municipal broadband utility options.

## BILL BYTES: A quick look at bills being tracked by MPUA

[HB 247](#) [Alferman, Justin\(R\)](#)

Establishes procedures to the sale of municipally-owned water or sewer systems.

[HB 656 & SB 354](#) [Rhoads & Rowden](#)

Changes the law regarding the uniform wireless communication infrastructure deployment act.

[HB 925](#) [McCaherty, John\(R\)](#)

Establishes the Manufactured Home and Mobile Home Residency Law.

[SB 186](#) [Emery, Ed\(R\)](#)

Modifies authority of local govts to offer communication services.

[SB 514](#) [Onder, Bob\(R\)](#)

Modifies the duties and powers of municipal governments in relation to utility services.