

PENNSYLVANIANS AGAINST SMART METERS

Pennsylvanians Against Smart Meters (PASM) is a group of concerned citizens whose goal is to educate the public about utility company smart meters and to halt the widespread installation of these meters through legal and/or political action

To Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
445 12th St., SW
Washington DC 20554

EX PARTE

Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment;

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D 17-79, D 17-84

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We value our health, privacy and security and this ruling risks all three.

Many experts have spoken out about the health effects of wireless radiation, and specifically this technology, 5G. It has been classified as a Class 2B carcinogen and there are calls to strengthen the classification after the Ramazzini and NTP studies. The EMF Scientist Appeal, signed by 244 scientists from 41 countries is an important call for stronger policies to protect human life from electromagnetic fields. Thousands of studies show that biological harm occurs at low level of wireless radiation than is being proposed in 5th generation wireless. Skin, eye and testicular damage are expected with 5th generation wireless. How are we to feel comfortable risking spending time in our front yards, even in our own homes if this ruling is implemented and we are forced to accept small wireless facilities in the right of way in our front yards?

Furthermore, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends we reduce our children's exposure to wireless radiation. The deployment of 5th Generation small wireless facilities in children's front yards will exponentially increase their exposure to wireless radiation, against this advice of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Today, more than half of American children and adults have at least one chronic illness, and many have two or more. The incidence of chronic disease in American children has never been higher. Adding 5G wireless in close proximity to homes, schools and businesses will create another barrier to achieving good health. Here are some facts from the Children's Health Defense:

- In 2011 54% of children had at least one of 20 chronic health conditions;

- Life expectancy is decreasing and infant mortality is rising. U.S. children are 76% more likely to die before their first birthday than infants in other wealthy countries;
- A study conducted from 2001-2004 found that half of U.S. youth (ages 13-18) had been diagnosed with at least one mental, emotional, and/or behavioral disorder;
- Top military leaders report seven in ten young Americans aged 17-24 are unfit to serve in the U.S. military because of obesity, asthma, hearing and eyesight problems and mental illness.

We need to be protecting our children's health, reducing threats to it. Small wireless cell facilities are expected to cause eye, skin and testicular problems. We already have an increased risk of creating cancer, brain and reproductive problems associated with the current wireless technologies. We need to be protecting our nation's children, acting with precaution by keeping our homes a low EMF environment. This ruling will do the opposite and prevent us from properly caring for our children.

Over half of all adults also have a chronic illness and 25% have two or more. Our hospitals seem to be continuously expanding, as sign of our citizens' poor physical, mental and emotional health. The government's own research has shown that wireless radiation, at much lower levels than is used in 5th Generation Wireless, causes cancer, reproductive harm, neurological harm and cardiac problems. We are a nation with many adults with disabilities, addictions, and people are committing suicide and other violent acts. **Our national priority must be the health of our people.** Faster video streaming and the Internet of things will come at a heavy price to our nation's health and security.

Our members value their privacy. This technology will violate that as wireless data will be collected by an increasing number of items in the Internet of Things. We do not consent to the collection of our personal data, and object to our personal data being sold. Wireless technology is not as secure as wired. We prefer hardwired, fiber optic systems because they are safe and secure.

Our personal and national security is at risk with the implementation of this technology. The frequencies used with 5th Generation wireless are high frequency, millimeter waves which are close to the range used in military applications. This means that can be used for crowd control or as a weapon if in the wrong hands. Also, recent severe weather creates a risk for toppling heavy equipment attached to poles. These small cells are to be installed near homes, creating added risk in severe weather.

The short time frame to discover and comment on this FCC ruling is unfair. It eliminates the public's, states' and local governments' ability to read, evaluate, react, and comment on the proposed rules. Most of the public is unaware of this pending proposal. The draft order is also not posted on the FCC's home page, despite its deep impact on every community and resident in the United States.

It is critical that the FCC:

- Postpone Commission action on these rules until at least November, and preferably postpone until January in the interest of transparency and public process. This is needed to allow adequate evaluation of this proposal and its impacts on the public, and on cities, counties, and states.
- Open 60-90 day (minimum) public comment period on these rules, beginning immediately and for anyone regardless of standing
- Post the draft order on the FCC home page where it can be easily found.
- Provide for a hearing on health with experts who are free of industry bias.

This ruling is very oppressive to citizens who have chronic health problems and especially those who are developing or have electrosensitivity. It appears to violate the ADA and constitutional rights. People who have electrosensitivity may have to move from their homes if a 5G small cell or other wireless device is installed outside of their home. This ruling does not provide anywhere for them to go as this technology is planned to be everywhere. There is no way to shield one's home from this level of radiation and is a very serious threat to their health. The EMF Scientist appeal must be heeded to protect these citizens.

This draft order and report remove many of the important processes of protection for citizens in their own communities. It places an unfair burden on the citizens and townships because it

allows Telecom Companies to install wireless antennas anywhere with no consideration of or protection for human health. Health is not even a consideration and in fact, it is illegal to use health as an excuse. That is unacceptable today as so many are reporting the development of electrosensitivity. Expansion of 5G should be stopped immediately and the FCC Safety Guidelines for safety reviewed by independent experts free of industry bias. The guidelines were developed 22 years ago and are based on outdated science. There are over 10,000 studies showing biological effects at far lower levels of microwave radiation than 5G will utilize. It is irresponsible for regulators to only consider thermal effects on health.

These infrastructure roll-outs are an unfunded mandate, putting costs on cities, counties, states, and local residents, reducing funding for local and state services, and reducing staff availability. These rules put the FCC in a position of regulating the citizens, state and local governments rather than the industry it is supposed to regulate. This places our health, privacy and security at risk. It is time for the priority to flip back to the people and their needs.