



**INTERNATIONAL
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February 24, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing to further express our concerns regarding the thousands of our members that are at risk of being exposed to wireless antenna systems that emit harmful levels of radio frequency (RF) radiation. On November 10, 2015, I wrote to you urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to address RF exposure and prevent unnecessary health risks to our members.

On January 13, 2016, Verizon filed an ex-parte letter requesting "safe harbors" for carriers due to "its ability to control the actions of third parties", and not requiring inspections "more frequently than every two years." Granting the discussed "safe harbors" and reducing the frequency of inspections would only aggravate the already hazardous situation facing our members, making it even more difficult for them to assess situations and take the safety precautions needed to protect themselves from unnecessary risk.

It should be required that all carriers, including Verizon, ensure that anyone working where wireless antenna systems are present has access to information about equipment locations, restricted areas, and how to power down equipment if deemed necessary to promote safety. Verizon and other carriers already have this information and should provide it to both contractors and all employees.

The IBEW would welcome the opportunity to work with the FCC, Verizon, and other stakeholders to develop a practical system that would protect the safety and health of all workers. I have enclosed a copy of the IBEW's formal comments on this matter in 2013. I once again ask the FCC to adopt final rules that will protect IBEW members that are exposed, sometimes unknowingly, to RF.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:hds

Copy to Richard Blumenthal, Senator
Anna Eshoo, Congresswoman
Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of Labor
Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor
David Mullen, Director, IBEW Safety Department
Martha Pultar, Director, IBEW Broadcasting & Telecommunications Department
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