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6r/354754

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We have reviewed Verizon's ex-parte letter dated January 13, 2016. Verizon's position shows a lack of concern for RF radiation safety for workers and continues to request safe harbor for maintaining the status quo.

This is not the first time carriers have requested a safe harbor. It appears their concern has more to do with protecting their financial interests rather than RF safety. Displaying a lack of willingness to address RF radiation exposure will only result in workers continuing to be exposed needlessly.

Our members as well as brothers and sisters of other unions are not part of the wireless industry and derive no financial reward from it. However, they are the most likely to suffer cognitive and other injuries from RF radiation while performing their work. Meanwhile, the wireless carriers, who generate hundreds of billions a year in revenue, are not in compliance with the Commission's rules. This deficiency results in working men and women not being protected from the very harm the carriers' antennas cause.

Current methods of restricted access, barriers and signs do not provide full compliance or protection for our members. We support the adoption of an advanced, third party RF safety solution which would ensure comprehensive safety for our members and all workers whose jobs put them at risk.

AFGE joins other unions in respectfully requesting that you encourage the carriers to do the right thing by embracing a true RF safety solution, which in turn would result in energetic support for safe harbor by all who are affected by this issue.

Sincerely,

Milly Rodriguez, MPH
Occupational Health and Safety Specialist

cc: Richard Blumenthal, Senator
Anna Eshoo, Congresswoman
Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of Labor
Dr. David Michaels, Asst. Secretary of Labor