

Coalition for Local Oversight of Utility Technologies (CLOUT) is a nationwide organization committed to restoring local governmental authority over decisions involving the health and environmental effects of telecommunications towers and related wireless facilities. This authority was severely and inappropriately compromised by Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, given the accumulating scientific evidence of the potential adverse effects of low-intensity radiofrequency radiation (RFR) on human beings, wildlife and the environment.

In light of this scientific evidence, as well as the superiority of fiber optic broadband over wireless in terms of speed (state-of-the-art fiber optic broadband is 10 GB compared to the low 100s MB for wireless), reliability (unlike wireless, fiber optic broadband is not subject to interference, signal blockage and attenuation, etc.), security (wired networks are cheaper and less difficult to adequately secure from foreign espionage and organized criminal activity), durability, energy efficiency and the protections it affords from exposures to RFR, CLOUT strongly urges the FCC to commit to the deployment of fiber optic as the means of providing broadband and to avoid or minimize the deployment of wireless broadband whenever possible.

CLOUT also recommends that the FCC revisit its current standards for exposure to radiofrequency radiation in consultation with the appropriate federal health and environmental agencies to align them with the most protective standards currently utilized by other countries throughout the world.