

Members of the FCC: I am writing to oppose the proposed CTIA Petition for Declaratory Ruling for a number of reasons.

1. Nearby residents are most affected by the siting of antennas not employees of CTIA and specific corporations or federal regulators. The input of local communities should, therefore, be given the greatest weight in the site-selection process - local authority over land use and zoning must be preserved.
2. There are potentially serious adverse biological effects from exposures to radiofrequencies. While the Telecommunications Act of 1996 disallows consideration of these effects, local residents may certainly resist and oppose the placement of sites that will lower their (already lowered) property values as a consequence of increasing public awareness of the health and environmental effects. To this end, local governments must be given sufficient time to allow residents to gather information about site applications, develop their responses, and attend public meetings.
3. The economic downturn of the last 18 months has no doubt forced local governments to downsize, unwittingly slowing local regulatory processes due to staff reductions. And these are due, in part, to reduced property tax allocations as a result of unpaid taxes, foreclosures and lower assessed values. Any attempt to coerce local governments with unwieldy deadlines works against their mandate to serve their communities in these stressful economic times. I do not know if companies pay communities for the costs of the siting process, but individual residents would not be served.
4. This petition process has an urgent feel to it, which is not at all necessary. Due process takes time. Local governments know their scheduling needs. CTIA wants to open the way for rapid and unregulated expansion of wireless technologies in the face of public opposition. Also, there are communications options such as fiber optics, the undergrounding of cables, and other wired solutions which are greener, more efficient, safer and relatively unopposed. (The upcoming discussions of Smart Grid structural features should consider these less worrisome options. Wired solutions should be implemented for SmartGrid and Smart Meter applications, not wireless. Wireless should not be carried over the electrical grid.)

All these issues are too important to be rushed. Please do not permit this. Thank you.