

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC 11-13

In the Matter of	)	
Connect America Fund	)	WC Docket No. 10-90
A National Broadband Plan for Our Future	)	GN Docket No. 09-51
Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers	)	WC Docket No. 07-135
High-Cost Universal Service Support	)	WC Docket No. 05-337
Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime	)	CC Docket No. 01-92
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
Lifeline and Link-Up	)	WC Docket No. 03-109
	)	

To: Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

Comment Filed by:  
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Chair Cell Tower Commission  
Conservation Commissioner  
Town of Washington, CT

May 14, 2011:

KEEP PHONES GREEN & WIRED

In a rural area such as the one I live in seamless coverage is not possible as has been stated by all of the telecoms in all of the meetings we have had with them regarding this

coverage for this area. Landlines are lifelines and must not be removed for the sake of the corporate bottom line. I ask that you consider the voice of the people and not the voice of the lobbyists and corporate giants. I believe the following to be a true and more detailed argument for keeping our land lines and thank you for your consideration.

Citizens must be allowed to keep landline phones. Landlines are safe, secure, reliable and affordable. Mobile phones have not been proven safe.

The FCC's duty is to facilitate communications for the whole country. Its new proposal ignores issues of health, safety, privacy, affordability and security.

Because of the rapid deployment of wireless telecom services, citizens, mayors, city legislators and city staff in every community in the United State are struggling to appropriately site the infrastructure for this technology while protecting the environment and the public's health.

The FCC's proposal values wireless telecom services more than our city and state charters, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Constitution. It promotes the interests of telecom corporations over citizens' health and safety. Because so few city attorneys, planners or legislators have been trained in telecom law or in regulating wireless telecom equipment, there are now thousands of lawsuits around the U.S. between municipalities, citizens groups and telecom companies.

As the FCC has stated, it does not have the expertise to determine safety standards for exposure to radiofrequency radiation. No government agency studies the biological effects of continuous exposure to radiation from wireless devices and antennas. The FCC's new proposal fails to outline how wireless infrastructure will be monitored and regulated. It relies entirely on voluntary compliance from the telecom industry.

Citizens have the right to choose a landline. We have the right to opt out of wireless devices. If the FCC's proposal passes, we will be denied the right to choose a landline.

Do not deploy any new telecom equipment until it is proven safe, secure, reliable and affordable!

*#1 Landlines have been proven safe. Children, people with medical implants, people with Radiofrequency Sickness, and people who don't want to increase their risk of cancer can use only landlines.* Research has demonstrated that mobile phone use is associated with increased cancer incidence, altered glucose levels in the brain, and weakening of the blood-brain barrier.

- While their brains develop, no child can safely use a mobile phone.
- Ten percent of the American population has a medical implant (such as a deep brain stimulator, a pacemaker, an insulin pump, bone replacements, a cochlear implant, metal dentistry, etc.). Radiation emitted by wireless devices and cell

towers interfere with the functioning of these devices and negatively impact the health of people who have them.

- Up to 35% of the population experiences Radiofrequency Sickness caused by radiation emitted by wireless devices and cell towers. They experience sleep disturbances, anxiety, tremors, headaches, flu-like symptoms, blurred vision and numerous other health problems that interfere with basic functioning. This population is rendered functionally impaired. They are increasingly unable to find work or housing. The only known remedy for Radiofrequency Sickness is to reduce exposure to radiation. Since this has become virtually impossible, a significant portion of our population has become a drain on our society. They can't work or access areas of public accomodation, and they need increasingly expensive health care. We can't afford to lose one third of our population to Radiofrequency Sickness. Our economy cannot withstand disregard for our public's health and our environment.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (the ADA), passed in 1990, states that municipalities may not take actions that have the effect of discriminating against people with disabilities. Section 601 of the Telecom Act requires that all previous Acts of Congress, such as the ADA, must be obeyed. The FCC's new proposal would further the problems of people disabled by radiation emitted by telecom equipment. Literally, they would have no place to go. This violates the ADA.
- The radiation issue - Every person on the planet is now concerned about radiation emissions from Japan's nuclear power plants. Likewise we need annual measurement of antenna radiation levels emitted in "areas" and by each antenna installed. Testing should be conducted by an idenpendent, credentialed radifrequency consultlant who is selected and paid by a local municipality, which should be reimbursed by telecom companies. Reports of these measurements should be made publicly available. Exposure limits must comply with biologically-based standards. Without such testing and regulation of exposure limits workers who maintain water towers, rooftops, and buildings where so many antennas are installed, are vulnerable, as are the residents of these buildings.

*#2. Landlines are secure. Cabled phones ensure privacy.*

Using mobile phones makes us vulnerable to hackers who commit financial fraud. It makes us vulnerable to terrorists.

*#3. Landlines are reliable.*

- During power outages and natural disasters, landlines are dependable.
- Wireless telecom equipment causes disasters. ABC News confirmed on April 26, 2009 that the Malibu, California fires were caused by utility poles overburdened by cellular phone gear.

*#4. Landlines are affordable.*

- We already have the infrastructure for landlines.
- Mobile phones fees are unregulated.
- Mobile phones and computers need constant repair and upgrades. Seniors and low-income citizens can't afford this. Equipment for landlines is durable and economical.
- As a nation, we must reduce our use of power and greenhouse gas emissions. Corded landlines require little electricity compared with antennas that emit radiation continuously. This is not the time to buy new devices or install new infrastructure that demands more electricity production.
- In the event of damage caused by wireless telecom equipment, who would be liable? The FCC needs to address this question, since municipalities regulations that require wireless telecom companies to carry liability for all damages caused by their equipment are considered "burdensome" to the telecom companies.

*#5. With landlines, we can survive.*

- Albert Manville, a senior biologist at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, has called on Congress to investigate the relationship between bee colony collapse and
- We've seen cancer clusters around cell towers in many communities around the country, including Bayville, NY and San Diego State University. We've seen lawsuits by homeowners who've found that fear of health problems from proximity to antenna sites has caused their property values to plummet.

Sincerely,

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