

Dear FCC (via the Adirondack Council):

It has come to our attention that you are considering a generic nationwide plan for cell tower expansions that ignore existing restrictions meant to protect the view-shed and the ecosystems in the Adirondack Park and other sensitive historic or scenic wilderness areas.

If this new plan is adopted, it will eradicate siting and size protections that the Adirondack Park Agency put in place for such areas in New York State since 2002. In the Adirondack Park, for example, the proposed new plan would inevitably undermine the unspoiled natural beauty and pristine ecology of one of the nation's most precious wilderness areas.

Such a plan is patently overbearing and would be devastating not only to the park itself but also potentially to tourism in the area. Both aspects of the park are critical to local and state revenues, as well as to employment.

We strongly agree with the January 14 editorial in the Schenectady Daily Gazette, which concluded, "The FCC's proposed rule change, which looks as if it will automatically allow towers to be 10 percent bigger or wider, would undo this delicate balance achieved in the park and other scenic and historic areas. It's destructive and unnecessary, and the FCC should drop it."

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

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