

I have just been made aware that the FCC is proposing a new rule that would give automatic approval for increases in the height and width of any existing cell tower, without permission from state or local regulators. I believe this to be a very bad decision and here is why:

There are regions in the country that are relatively wild and pristine and giving blind approval for changes in cell towers make no sense. My main concern is in the Adirondack Forest Preserve in New York State. It is a pristine environment that - like so many other natural preserves - needs to be safeguarded against unrestricted development. Local regulators know what's best for their area and should always have a say in the matter. Maybe not necessarily the final say but their voices should be heard and carry weight. In the case of the Adirondack, no body is in a better position to decide what's best for the environment and the people living their than the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). They've been working with cell phone companies and internet providers to come up with policies and regulations that work to provide the required service while protecting the environment and the people that depend on it for recreation and a livelihood.

It makes absolutely no sense to remove the authority for regulating cell towers from an agency that knows what's best for this particular area and has a history of success and give it to bureaucrats who will institute a one size fits all policy. I urge you not to institute a rule that would grant automatic approval for increases in the height and width of any existing cell tower, without permission from state or local regulators.

Sincerely,
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