

The Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century (CAP-21) would like to support the Adirondack Council and express our concerns regarding the proposed regulations for the siting of communication towers being proposed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proposed regulations that would significantly restrict local governmental authority proposes a significant threat to the scenic beauty and economic attraction of the Adirondack mountains.

CAP-21 represents the interests of five municipalities (Forestport, Webb, Inlet, Long Lake, Indian Lake) across three counties in New York State. The primary economic driver for this region is tourism which has as its basis the environmental heritage and recreational opportunities in the largest state park east of the Mississippi. While cell service, emergency communications and broadband are essential for a viable Adirondack economy, these can clearly be provided within the existing regulatory context that has preserved the Park's unique environmental vistas and attractions. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has provided regulatory guidance and direction to Park communities since 2002. Communication services and availability have continued to improve and it is essential to maintain the APA regulatory approach that speaks to the "invisibility" of communication towers and structures.

In creating a regulatory environment that truly benefits regional economies, the FCC must take into consideration the following:

- exemptions and/or considerations for regions of the country that have unique environmental, or historical or other heritage based assets or economies that must be protected from construction that does not meet and protect the unique character of such regions;
- regions that have an existing State regulatory environment, such as that administered by the Adirondack Park Agency, must be exempted from the proposed regulations to the greatest degree feasible;
- consideration must be given to local municipalities that have established review and regulatory processes that meet State and FCC standards.

In short, the installation of communication towers, while essential in our technological based society, is not a simple black and white issue and the FCC must provide flexibility within its regulatory approach that allows for full consideration of regional environmental, economic, historical and regulatory history. We thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

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