

Federal Communications Commission:

We vacation annually in the Adirondacks, both in the High Peaks area and at a relative's vacation home on the shores of Lake Champlain near Keeseville, NY. For us, a major attraction to the Adirondack area is the feeling of remoteness and wilderness. In part, this atmosphere is due to the lack of obvious signs of modern technology, such as cell phone/internet towers.

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has worked with towns in the Adirondacks and cell phone/internet providers to develop regulations for cell towers. These regulations keep the towers as unobtrusive as possible, partly by using existing tall structures as mounts for the antennas; or requiring visual screening for the larger ones. At the same time, these regulations have enabled cell and internet service to the towns. Companies have been able to improve and expand service with the restrictions to keep the towers "substantially invisible." The APA has been able to enforce this policy without significant delays in the approval of new towers.

The new rule proposed by the FCC, which grants automatic approval for increases in height or width of any existing cell tower without approval from state/local regulators, has the potential to significantly harm the natural beauty and atmosphere that attracts us and many other tourists to the Adirondacks. Thus, the proposed regulation has the potential to adversely affect the natural beauty of the region and harm tourism in an area of the country which has an economy heavily based on tourism.

As mentioned above, the APA has developed a plan to maintain the delicate balance between the need for the technology provided by the cell towers without ruining the landscape. We strongly urge you to exempt areas, such as the Adirondacks, that have successful policies for the locating and modifying cell towers from the proposed rule granting automatic approval to requests to modify existing towers.

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