

## Dawn Huntley

---

**From:** Stephen Dahl <stephen70@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** House Innovation, Internet and Technology Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony FOR H5148

Stephen R Dahl, For, H5148

Dear House Innovation, Internet, and Technology Committee,

My name is Stephen Dahl and I am writing in favor of H5148, the RI Broadband Development Program, for all the reasons listed in the Legislative Findings. I am a resident of Kingston, RI, and am a house husband and stay-at-home dad. I cannot work outside the home because I cannot physically withstand the wireless radiation from Wi-Fi and other radiofrequency/microwave radiation emitting devices for long durations. I want to tell you about my experience working at the Peace Dale Library, where I worked at the Circulation Desk from December 2015 to May 2016. I enjoyed working there. Until I began to get health problems. A lot of health problems. Insomnia, where I woke up after two hours of sleep, and couldn't fall back asleep. Dyslexia, when I tried to shelve books. Memory loss, when I tried to recall what my boss asked me to do. Brain fog, when I tried to solve problems. Anxiety, heart palpitations, stomach cramps, fatigue, headaches toward the end of my workday and into the evening. I had the visits to all the different doctors. I finally realized that the Circulation Desk was 10 feet from the Wi-Fi transmitter serving the entire library. I reluctantly quit the library. I began to recover. But when I went to environments with Wi-Fi and other electromagnetic fields, some symptoms would recur.

I have had to change my home environment, lifestyle, diet, the places I visit, I cannot work in a typical office, and I limit the time I spend in other people's homes, and in public spaces. I get tinnitus, ringing in my ears, inflammation, numbness and tingling in my limbs, burning feet. Some people get vertigo, dizziness, and nausea.

The doctors I visited had no idea about electromagnetic radiation. Some are beginning to learn. The first big US conference on Electromagnetic Fields, or EMFs, was in September 2019, where doctors earned Continuing Medical Education credits. <http://emfsafetynetwork.org/emf-medical-conference-2021/>

To learn more about electromagnetic radiation, see Cece Doucette's database, Understanding EMFs:

<https://sites.google.com/site/understandingemfs/home>

I have been researching the subject of pulsed radiofrequency/microwave radiation emitted from wireless devices for five years, and am convinced that fiber-optics to the premises is the safest, fastest, and most reliable and privacy-secure means of providing Internet access throughout RI.

That said, increasingly people are becoming aware of their sensitivity to the effects of radiofrequency/microwave radiation, which can be debilitating and even lead to death. It is important that the carrier of fiber optics, which in Rhode Island tends to be Verizon, does not project Wi-Fi into the streets. This is often done routinely from the utility box in the basement which is by default set up to accommodate security systems, regardless of whether these systems are in operation. Moreover, at this stage, coaxial cable connections, which are routinely done by Cox Communications, can be easier to set up for people who already know they are electrosensitive, because there is no box from which to deactivate the security system-ready Wi-Fi (which is in addition to a Wi-Fi modem), and because corded landline phones may be easier to install with a coaxial setup. From the Wi-Fi prohibiting modem, an ethernet router may be used to connect several computers without the use of radiofrequency/microwave radiation. Our Public Utilities Commission must make opting out of “smart” electrical, gas, and water meters easier and cost-free, as these meters emit pulsed radiation 24/7.

We don't have to reinvent the wheel to learn about radiofrequency radiation harm and how to remedy it. When given a chance to explore the science, reasonable people will decide to protect their community.

On November 1, the New Hampshire Commission to Study the Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology released its final report to Governor Sununu. The majority supported 15 recommendations, including reducing public exposure to cellphones and wireless devices, replacing Wi-Fi in schools and libraries with superior wired connections, establishing radiation-free zones, and protecting trees and bees. <https://ehtrust.org/new-hampshire-state-report-on-health-and-environmental-effects-of-5g-and-wireless-radiation/>

Why are wired connections better?

First, wired communications are more secure than wireless ones. Radio transmissions, cellphones, Wi-Fi, and even military communications can all be intercepted. If a hacker can see the transmitting antenna, they can hack it wirelessly. This puts all data “in line of sight” at risk. In contrast, to hack a wired transmission requires physically connecting to a port on the wire. Encryption encodes messages, which can add layers of security. We already have broadband lines on most utility poles in Rhode Island, and don't need 5G. Instead, we need to make sure all lines are connected to buildings and homes.

Second, the rollout of 5G is invasive. “Small” cells arrive atop telephone poles outside our homes, businesses, parks, and places of worship. They are outfitted on residential high rises, abandoned factories, and towers. 5G transmission can be disrupted by rain, snow, or foliage. Therefore, 5G cells must be placed every 250 yards or every 2 to 10 homes. Furthermore,

because 5G must work in tandem with 4G, 4G towers are being erected closer to and even inside residential neighborhoods.

5G's wireless radiation enables the Internet of Things (IoT), which is a deeper invasion. The IoT connects every wireless device to the internet. However, the IoT goes beyond our mobile devices. "Smart" technology is already appearing in everyday household appliances such as TVs, coffee makers, and wearables that emit radiation like cell towers do. Considering the insecurity of wireless technology, the push towards more surveillance and data-sharing is perilous. Medical centers and private practitioners will risk HIPPA violations, businesses will risk their clients' privacy, and consumers will risk biometric information theft. Do we want to sacrifice Fourth Amendment rights prohibiting warrantless search and seizure due to coercion to use 5G technology? There are cameras accompanying 5G on poles in the Brown University neighborhood of Providence. Our human identity is being surveilled and sold: the gait of our walk, the irises of our eyes, our fingerprints, our temperature, our heartbeat, the details of our private life stories. We are being fleeced down to the marrow of our bones by industry lobbyists who have captured our government as the technology moves faster than our legislators can understand it. Instead of making ourselves more vulnerable, we should protect our homes and businesses with wired connections.

The third reason wired broadband is better than 5G is that small cells are energy guzzlers. The so-called "small" antennas use the existing fiber optic wires on the utility poles as a high-speed backbone. This technology has been used for 40 years to connect continents at the speed of light and will be of use for the next 40. The reason telecoms want 5G is that it is more cost effective for them to irradiate homes and businesses from the pole's transmitter than connect them with wires which would require labor and materials. Telecoms by law need to provide fiber optics to the premises because consumers have been billed fees on their telephone invoices for over twenty years, but the legislature has not held telecoms to account. Never mind that telecoms' wireless transmitters will need to be updated. Or that fiber optics provides net neutrality. Moreover, the wireless radiation used to connect devices uses 10 times the energy that wired connections do, according to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The meters on the poles record the energy use of transmitters.

In summary, wired communications such as fiber-optics to the premises has many benefits over 5G. Fiber-optics are of the highest speed, reliability, and are far more secure. Our personal, professional, medical, and financial information will be kept safe. We will not have to risk the theft or sale of our personal information to the highest bidder during the constant streaming and data mining that will make up the Internet of Things. Furthermore, we know wireless radiation causes health damage to humans, animals, and insects. Ultimately, the escalating energy costs to power the devices—and municipal expenditures for surveillance—can be put to better use, especially in these times, to improve the lives of all. If we allow for fast wired connections, we will save lives, improve the environment, and help reduce the energy consumption which exacerbates climate change.

Please pass this bill because it is important to have local authority for broadband in Rhode Island. Please keep in mind the benefits of fiber to the premises and abandon the notion that 5G wireless is the only or best means to provide safe, reliable, and affordable Internet access for Rhode Islanders. Sincerely, Stephen R Dahl, 36 Diane Dr, Kingston, RI 02881.

--  
Stephen Dahl <https://www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandersforSafeTechnology/>