

Chair Ruggiero and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheila Resseger, from Cranston, and I strongly oppose H6151, the Wireless Telecommunications Act, for the following reasons. Although H6151 would override the 2017 Small Cell Siting Act, it attempts to preempt state and local obligations to *safety*, which the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 does not. Indeed, the Telecom Act's Conference Report expressly states that "safety" and other criteria must remain under the regulatory control of localities, no matter what the FCC may try to preempt. Thus, the claim that H6151 merely restates the Telecom Act is false. And no reason exists to restate a federal law. But H6151 attempts to *supersede* it.

When a state decides to override federal law, presumably under the Tenth Amendment, it must do so for the good of its People, not for their harm, since the Ninth Amendment provides first for the People's rights above untoward federal actions. However, H6151 would use state's rights to take away the People's rights. Both constitutions – federal and state – would be violated, and the express intent of the U.S. Congress trampled.

H6151 eliminates municipalities' obligation to safety – to Rhode Island residents' and our environment's protection against the harms of the pulse-modulated radiofrequency / microwave radiation deployed by misnamed "small cell" high-power antennas. Though it appears to give localities a role in considering telecom applications, the Bill adds red tape, removing *federally-assured* local authorities to deny placement, construction, modification and operations under certain conditions. Thus, H6151, no doubt by industry attorneys, is an attempt at self-preemption. Plainly *ultra vires*.

Misrepresenting the limited preemption at 47 U.S.C. §332 (c)(7)(B)(4), H6151 violates the Conference Report on the Telecom Act and the very intent of the Communications Act of 1934 and the Telecom Act, purposed "to promote the safety of life and property". Moreover, the 1968 Public Health Service Act Amendment states: "The Congress hereby declares that the public health and

safety must be protected from the dangers of electronic product radiation.” You’ve just spent 16 months prioritizing the public health and safety above all, yet by this Bill would discard safety in self-preemption beyond the federal preemption...and beyond RI Oaths of Office.

H6151 further removes the People’s constitutional rights to freedom from warrantless surveillance, privacy of expression, security of person, and freedom of movement. The antennas now being deployed are intended for the Internet of Bodies (IoB) within the Internet of Things (IoT), under technocratic AI control. Not one of us wishes our freedoms taken in service of telecom profits – or surveillance agendas.

Note: H6151 omits the wired connections that have served us for decades. The Broadband bill H5148’s Point 3 in the Legislative Findings stated:

“(3) The telecommunications industry has been using fiber-optic cable for the past forty (40) years. Any effective fifth generation (5G) wireless network requires a fiber-optic backbone.”

No additional wireless is needed, with fiber-optics to the premises (FTTP). Each home and business, connected to the fastest, most secure and reliable, and least energy-consumptive internet, has none of the harms of wireless systems. You must reject H6151 and compose a new Bill promoting safety and including wired connections.

Here is a summary of the reasons that FTTP is superior to wireless. Fiber-optics to the premises:

- Runs directly to the home or business and allows data rates up to 1,000 times faster than wireless.
- Allows for more secure and private transmission (as wireless communications can be hacked or surveilled).

- No harmful pulsed, modulated radiofrequency/microwave radiation emissions.
- More resilient as it continues to work in case of a power emergency (wireless will not run without power for the “small cell” transmitters and towers).
- Capable of transmitting tremendous amounts of data.
- Infinitely upgradable for up to 40-50 years. As the end-point electronics improve, can swap out the electronics to increase the data rate transmitted over the fiber-optic cable.
- Is **not** an energy guzzler, as is wireless. 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 chart below summarizes the harms to human safety and security, as well as environmental health, from wireless and the Internet of Bodies (IoB) and the larger Internet of Things (IoT) that the current wireless deployment enables:

#### **Nine ways 5G and the IoT will harm humans, the environment, and Earth**

- **Health** – The robust and growing *independent* science shows harms to our health from microwave radiation
- **Privacy** – The invasion of our privacy from the collection and mining of our digital data
- **Cyber Security** – The fast growing and devastating cyber security risks
- **Environment** – The harms to wildlife, particularly bees, butterflies and other pollinators
- **Energy** – The huge energy consumption to produce and power a wireless Internet of Things
- **Brains and Humanity** – The effects on our brains and humanity from humans increasingly inhabiting the cyber world
- **E-Waste** – The astronomical e-waste that will be generated from connecting virtually every “thing” to the Internet
- **Conflict Minerals** – 5G and the IoT will vastly grow our dependence on conflict minerals, which have brought about the death of close to 6 million people
- **Ethics** – Ethical issues arising from the IoT. New human rights laws are being considered; how should humans relate to robots and AI? The blurring of what was once a clear delineation between technology and humans

<https://whatis5g.info/?fbclid=IwAR1k4RjBrdc7mGkTeegvUSXliDBpfVc6eHMfTs dTI3OP4udkT6tN3eetITE>

This bill provides the telecom companies an easy path to carry out their objective, which is to saturate the environment with these "small cell" installations that emit noxious radiation, ignoring the other drawbacks of this technology, and refusing to consider a plan to augment the fiber-optic cable already in Rhode Island to provide fiber-to-the-premises to every residence and business. As stated in the Legislative Findings of H5148:

"Because of the size of Rhode Island, the state has more fiber-optic cable per square mile than any other state in the country. Over forty-eight (48) strands of fiber-optic cable run on telephone poles throughout the state, yet less than ten (10) strands are being used and only by hospitals, colleges, universities, libraries, and schools."

For all of these reasons, I object to bill H6151, the Wireless Telecommunications Act. I hope that you will give serious attention to re-writing this bill in order to provide Rhode Islanders with a safe, secure, and actually even faster means of connecting to the Internet—wired broadband rather than wireless. RI does not have to reinvent the wheel. Please see the recent extensive report from the state of New Hampshire that documents harm from wireless technology and offers recommendations for how to protect the public. <https://ehtrust.org/new-hampshire-state-report-on-health-and-environmental-effects-of-5g-and-wireless-radiation/>

Thank you for considering my views. I hope you will agree that this bill does not meet the needs of Rhode Islanders, and that you will draft a new bill that will truly provide safety for the public and also will educate them about the harms of this "innovative" technology, as well as relating the good news that wireless is not the only way to provide access to the internet. Wired fiber-to-the-premises is in fact a superior method, in that it is more secure from hacking or surveillance, much faster, more reliable, and uses much less energy. Full authority to control the public-rights-of-way and to regulate or deny the placement of these "small

cell" antennas must be given back to the cities and towns. You have the power to do so. Please do!

Sincerely,

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