

Energy and Technology Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

March 16, 2010

Re: Support for Proposed House Bill 5500 – with suggested modifications

Dear Senators Fonsara and Witkos, Representatives Nardello and Williams, and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am writing to strongly support the **intent** of proposed House Bill 5504 to establish restrictions for siting cell phone towers near schools. I applaud this effort to keep radio-frequencies and other harmful electromagnetic emissions from being in close proximity to schools and, thus, our youth. However, I would urge that revisions include:

- Further clarification of the types of telecommunications “facilities” intended;
- Further clarification of the terms “public need for the facility,” “public benefit for the facility,” and “the basis of the need;”
- A more stringent 1500 ft distance requirement from the property line of a school – not just the main building; and
- A definition of entities eligible for protection to include not only schools, but also day-care centers, camps, sports and recreation programs, or any facility or recreation area that hosts children for significant portions of the day or year.

These revisions would set in place a standard in keeping with the Precautionary Principle advocated by independent electromagnetic researchers from around the world in the International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety’s Catania Resolution of 2002, Bevento Resolution of 2006, and Venice Resolution of 2008.

The Venice Resolution states: “We take exception to the claim of the wireless communication industry that there is no credible scientific evidence to conclude there a risk. Recent epidemiological evidence is stronger than before, which is a further reason to justify precautions be taken to lower exposure standards in accordance with the Precautionary Principle.”¹

Lastly, the FCC has just released its National Broadband Plan which seeks to aggressively ensure the U.S. has ubiquitous broadband access. The sooner this legislation is drafted and passed, the sooner will Connecticut be able to more thoughtfully protect it’s youth and natural assets from overzealous and not-well-thought-out cell-tower siting applications.

I am very grateful for your work on this matter. It is of great significance.

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¹ <http://www.icems.eu/>