

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Implementing the Infrastructure Investment ) GN Docket No. 22-69  
and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of )  
Digital Discrimination )

**REPLY COMMENTS OF ADVOCATES FOR THE EMS DISABLED**

**Filing Parties:**

The parties listed below constitute the “Advocates for the EMS Disabled” and join together to submit these Reply Comments:

Children’s Health Defense; Rocky Mountains for Safe Technology, California Fires & Firefighters, Susan Foster & Shannon Shine, Boulder County, CO; Wired Broadband, Inc. (non-profit); Odette J. Wilkens, President & General Counsel, Forest Hills, NY; Pittsfield Injured and Concerned Citizens, Courtney Gilardi, Pittsfield, MA; Kent Chamberlin, PhD, Professor and Chair Emeritus, former member of the NH Commission to Study The Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology, Durham, NH; Actionagainst5g, Karen Churchill, London, United Kingdom; Adult Child Health and Environmental Support (ACHES), Nicholas Martin, Wokingham, Berkshire, United Kingdom; Sehtab Ahmad, Sterling, VA; Albertans for Safe Technology, Lori Curran, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada; Alliance for Microwave Radiation Accountability, Inc, Michael Muadin, President, East Chatham, New York; Arizonans for Safe Technology, Valeri Marsh, Executive Director, Phoenix, AZ; Teri Bloom, New York, NY; Boyle Heights Community Garden, Brenda Trujillo, Los Angeles, CA; Prof. Dr. habil Klaus Buchner, (former) Member of the European Parliament, Prof. of Technische Universität München & Ökologisch-Demokratische Partei (Retired), Munich, Germany; California Brain Tumor

Association, Ellen Marks, Director, Indian Wells, CA; Center for Safer Wireless, Desiree Jaworski, Executive Director, Haymarket, VA; Californians for Safe Technology, Jodi Nelson, Director, Walnut Creek, CA; Citizens for Safer Tech, Sharon Noble, Director, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada; Citizens for Safer Tech, Sherry Ridout, Volunteer, British Columbia, Canada; Coloradans for Safe Technology, Founder, Nancy Van Dover, DVM OMD Dipl Acup, Durango, CO; Connecticut for Responsible Technology, grassroots, not-for-profit, Paska Nayden, Co-Founder, Easton, CT; Consumers for Safe Cell Phones, Cynthia Franklin, Director, Bellingham, WA; Julio Cruz, Los Angeles, CA; Families for Safe Technology, Eva Bortnick; Gail Dalby, Branford, CT; Richard Dalby, Branford, CT; Antonella DiSaverio, Astoria, NY; Eastside Parents, Eloise Galindo, Los Angeles, CA; Ecegul (AJ) Elterman, Bayville, NY; Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation (E.P.I.C.), Barbara Payne, President, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; EMF Safety Network, Sidnee Cox, CA; EM Radiation Research Trust, Eileen O'Connor, Charity Director, Leicestershire, United Kingdom; EMF Wellness Tucson, Lisa C. Smith, PhD, EMRS, Tucson, AZ; 5G Free California, Julie Levine, Executive Director and CEO, Topanga, CA; 5G Free Rhode Island, Sheila Resseger, M.A., Co-Founder, Cranston, RI; Kathleen Gildred, Topanga, CA; Howard Goodman, Esq., Forest Hills, NY; Felix Gruman, Queens NY; Sandra Heath, New York, NY; Idahoans For Safe Technology Foundation, Hank Allen, Vice President, Eagle, ID; Dr. Magda Havas, Professor Emerita, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada; Gunnar Heuser M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P., sole practitioner, clinical researcher, Sacramento, CA; Moira Hahn & Mark Hotchkiss, Long Beach, CA; Hilltown Health and Piti Theatre Company, Jonathan Mirin and Godeliève Richard, Directors, Shelburne Falls, MA; Amy Harlib, New York, NY; Charlene Hopey, Topanga, CA; Teresa Hommel, New York, NY; Ithacans for Responsible Technology, Ithaca, NY; Robert

Janku, North Potomac, MD; Keep Cell Towers Away, Mark Graham, Founder, Elk Grove, CA; Ronald Kuriloff, Saugerties, New York; Antonio Garcia, Los Angeles, CA; Fabiola Garcia, Los Angeles, CA; Magdalena Gonzales, Bell, CA; Last Tree Laws, Kirstin Beatty, Holyoke, MA; Marie LeBlanc, Artist, Quartzsite, AZ; Bonnie Loewenstein, Brooklyn, NY; Kevin Lorenzen, Placitas, NM; Manitobans for Safe Technology, Marg Friesen, Director, Canada; Teresa Martinez, Moreno Valley, CA; Marie Molnar, Ithaca, NY; Andrew Molnar, Ithaca, NY; MA for Safe Technology, Cecelia Doucette, Director, Sheffield, MA; MalibuForSafeTech.org, Lonnie Gordon, Exec. Director, Malibu, CA; Manhattan Neighbors for Safer Telecommunication and ElectromagneticHealth.org, Camilla Rees, Founder; George Martinez, Los Angeles, CA; Linda Minarik, New York, NY; mocoSafeG.org, Montgomery County, MD; Mothers of East LA, Terry Marquez, Director, Los Angeles, CA; Andrea Mercier, Colorado Springs, CO; National Health Federation, Scott Tips, President; New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech, New York, NY; Oregon for Safer Technology, Kelly Marcotulli, Executive Director, Ashland, OR; Radiation Protection Foundation, Mona Nilsson, Director, Adelsö, Stockholm, Sweden; Valerie Pegues-Johnson, Glen Allen, VA; Pennsylvanians for Safe Technology, Donna DeSanto Ott, PT DPT MS; Nohemi Reyes, Bell, CA; Sara Reyes, Bell, CA; Rhode Islanders for Safe Technology, Stephen R. Dahl, Director, Kingston, Rhode Island; Scott Rummmler, Start-Up Founder, New York, NY; Lynne Rossman; Natalie Sadler, MD, Black Mountain, NC; SafeCell01240, Karen Beckwith, Lenox, MA; Safe Tech International, Kate Kheel, Founder, Taneytown, MD; Safe Tech International, Sarah Aminoff, Member, Union City CA; Safe Tech International, Patricia Burke, Member, Mills, MA; Safe Tech 4 Santa Rosa, Mary Dahl, Member, Santa Rosa, CA; Safe Technology Minnesota, Petra Brokken, Director, Saint Paul, Minnesota; Safe Tech Tucson, Tucson, AZ; SafeTech Westchester, Ruth F. Moss, White Plains; Cecilia Sanchez, Placitas, NM; Arlene

Sanchez, Placitas, NM; Allen Schoen, Saltspring Island, British Columbia, Canada; Bernadette Shultz, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada; Scientific Alliance for Education, Nina Anderson, President, Sheffield, MA; Peter Sierck, Principal/Senior Industrial Hygienist, EMF & RF Solutions / Environmental Testing & Technologies, Encinitas, CA; Frederick P Sinclair Jr., Alfred, NY; Smart Meter Education Network, Linda Kurtz, Director, Tucson, AZ; Southwest Ohio for Responsible Technology, Lisa Jobe, Member, Lebanon, OH; Stop 5g Jax, Lisa Lovelady, Member, Jacksonville, Florida; Stop Smart Meters! Josh Hart, Director; Ruben Tadeo, Los Angeles, CA; SW Pennsylvania for Safe Technology, Susan Jennings, Founder, Mount Pleasant, PA; Thepeoplesinitiative.org, Liz Barris, Director, Topanga, CA; Unión Binacional de Organizaciones de Trabajadores Mexicanos Ex Braceros 1942-1964, Baldomero Capiz, Los Angeles, CA; Virginians for Safe Technology, Fredericksburg, VA; and Dulcy Wilson, individual citizen of USA and Canada, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada.

### **Reply Comments**

The Initial NPRM Comments by Advocates for the EMS Disabled argued that (1) the definitions of “consumer” and “subscriber” should include the EMS Disabled; (2) digital discrimination characteristics should include disability; (3) Commission rules and policies that foster and exacerbate digital discrimination of the EMS Disabled must be re-examined and reversed; (4) digital discrimination of access against the EMS Disabled must end and the EMS Disabled must be afforded “equal access”; (5) fiber optics should be given priority for the EMS Disabled; and (6) there should be a dedicated portal for consumer complaints related to digital

discrimination. The Advocates for the EMS Disabled also incorporated the points they had made in the NOI phase of this proceeding.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission should always prioritize “to the premise” fiber solutions and rely on wireless only when wired is technically or economically infeasible or the main purpose is mobility. If the Commission is sincere about achieving “diversity, equity and inclusion” it ***must*** recognize the specific concerns of the EMS Disabled and take the kind of special measures to address it that are within its regulatory remit. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. The Commission can and should establish such zones, or at least allow local and state authorities to do so without threat or fear of litigation on preemption grounds.

With our Reply Comments, the Advocates for the EMS Disabled – as we did in the NOI round – will summarize and highlight filed comments from individuals who have experienced Electromagnetic Sensitivity (EMS) – the malady comprising a constellation of neurological symptoms, also referred to as Electrosensitivity (EHS).

As of April 14, 2023, a noteworthy 631 “express” and 5 “formal”<sup>2</sup> public comments by the public in response to the NPRM referenced EMS disability and asked the Commission to protect those who suffer EMS from undesired and harmful RF exposure. This topic was by far the most discussed issue by express commenters – actual citizens, those this Commission is supposed to be working for, rather than those who typically roam the FCC’s halls. This level of true “public” involvement shows the level of both harm and public awareness. The shocking

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<sup>1</sup> The NPRM initial comments incorporated the NOI filings by reference. For ease of access and for record purposes those filings are attached to these Reply Comments.

<sup>2</sup> We define “express” comments as those where the commenting party directly supplied text through the ECFS portal and “formal” comments as those that contained a separate attachment with the content.

statistics tell us why more and more are actively asking for relief. The U.S. population is 332.4 million, and here are the numbers being harmed:<sup>3</sup>

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Number of U.S. EMF Sensitive/Disabled</b>
Can't work – 0.65%	2.16 million
Severe symptoms – 1.5%	4.99 million
Moderate symptoms – 5%	16.6 million
Mild symptoms – 30%	99.7 million

### **EMS DISABLED – IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

J. Adamo's written comments<sup>4</sup> state what is increasingly becoming apparent to the public:

Electromagnetic Sensitivity (EMS) is a valid medical condition in which individuals exposed to radiofrequency (RF) radiation from cell towers, WiFi, smartphones, smart meters and other wireless devices experience adverse health effects or worsening of existing health conditions. It can be extremely disabling and it is a discrimination against these individuals for the FCC not to recognize this. I and many others believe this is grounds for legal discrimination. With cell towers forced upon our cities and towns throughout it can leave EMS individuals excluded from public places that are drenched with Radio Frequency.

The cell towers being forced upon neighborhoods without a choice are even a worst discrimination for the RF-sensitive and especially for those with EMS disabilities as they are adversely affected within their own homes.

The Canadians Educators for Safe Technology (CE4ST)<sup>5</sup> written submission makes similar points as the Advocates for the EMS Disabled. The CE4ST comments also include personal testimony in Appendix B:

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<sup>3</sup> Population numbers derived by applying [Bevington, M, The Prevalence of People with Restricted Access to Work in Manmade Electromagnetic Environments. \(2019\) J Environ Health Sci 5\(1\): 01- 12. ©2019](#), available at <https://mdsafetech.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/2018-prevalence-of-electromagnetic-sensitivity.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Comments of J. Adamo, April 6, 2023, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/104062712013998>.

<sup>5</sup> Canadian Educators for Safe Technology, March 24, 2023, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10325112714814>.

Feeling poisoned every day, unable to function or participate fully in life, electromagnetically sensitive/electromagnetically disabled people like me are forced to retire early, or take unpaid medical leave or short-term leave, to regain their health.

Texts, send a sharp pain to the posterior part of my head, and subsequent, building head pressure and latent migraines occur the next day (like a hangover) which can last for hours or days. When I am exposed to wireless signals from small wireless antennas, or large cell towers, cell phones, wireless routers, fit bits, tablets, T.V. remotes, etc. I experience moderate, severe, or debilitating symptoms depending on my proximity to the wireless source, signal strength and duration of exposure. Intolerable symptoms prevent me from accessing essential services or participating fully in society.

The express comments addressing this topic are too numerous to individually list, but many of them provide even more personal stories. Here are just a few:

**Janet Tache, March 28, 2023**

I have a family member who suffers greatly being just in the same room with a single cell phone turned on. She gets heart palpitations, flu symptoms, headache, blurred vision, dizziness, and muddled thinking. She can't go anywhere these days without feeling sick and terrible. I know a couple of men who get tinnitus. Several friends complain about their symptoms. And many people complain of feeling "fried" by wireless devices, which are literally everywhere. Apparently everyone's body is affected negatively, whether one feels it or not. The brains of babies and infants in the womb are extremely vulnerable to wireless devices. It is just wrong to force people into having things like wireless smart meters installed in their homes with no opt out possibilities. They are forced to pay for something that will hurt them, and too often there is no recourse, no opt-out. We are like frogs in slowly heating water, and no one seems to care. I believe that forcing exposure – even as part of a genuine effort to afford broadband access – is itself a form of discrimination as a matter of law. More importantly, it is fundamentally inequitable because it leads to great harm: people with severe symptoms are functionally excluded from public participation since almost all public spaces are flooded with RF, and those with wireless facilities nearby cannot even take refuge in their homes.

**Michael Muadin, President, The Alliance for Microwave Radiation Accountability, Inc., March 21, 2023**

The injured lose their civil rights and access to medical care, the legal system, and government. They are no longer able to walk into City Hall, a courthouse, a library, a bank, or a hospital. They are no longer able to go shopping for food or clothing. Every store is off limits due to the radiation from wifi and cell phones.

Any additional exposure to radiation robs the victims of the rest of their ability to use any electricity or electrical devices. It crashes their immune system, destroys the rest of their physical and mental health, and finally ends their lives.

The FCC has a chance to prevent this tragedy before it unfolds all across these United States, afflicting the people our Federal Government is supposed to protect, devastating the health, safety, and welfare of this great nation.

It takes a certain fearlessness to turn the tide of events and shape the course of human history. We urge you to have the courage to prioritize “fiber to the premises” solutions. We demand that you recognize and accommodate the victims of Microwave Radiation Syndrome and those who are EMS disabled.

### **L. Decristofaro, March 14, 2023**

I never thought my life would be completely turned upside down after being disabled by wireless technology. I used to LOVE technology. I worked for a telecom and had every new device. I also was exposed to a lot of cellular, wi-fi, bluetooth, cordless phones etc. I started to experience burning nerve pain and muscle spasms and knots as well as extreme anxiety and depression with no known cause. Over the years 2011-2019 I got worse and worse with chronic insomnia, tremors, restless limbs, weakness, appetite loss, digestive issues, chronic pain, tinnitus, Blood pressure issues low and high, racing heart, excessive sweating, vertigo and so much more.

The office I worked in had industrial Wi-fi routers everywhere as well as 3G and 4G installed on the roof. There were a stream of ambulances called to this office on multiple occasions and we had no idea why so many “healthy” people needed ambulances at work. Before we moved to the top floor where my exposure was the highest, a man of 50 years old in good health, died suddenly at work of a heart attack. He worked on the top floor. 4G LTE had just been installed some months prior. On the top floor it was during this 3 month period where I received the highest amount of RF exposure at work. I experienced intense pressure in my eyes and head with burning nerve pain, red face that felt like sunburn, ringing in my ears, all over head hair loss (about 50% of my head of hair in 3 months) and awful heart palpitations that started a few hours after exposure. They would start slow and gain momentum. They were pounding like drum by the time I left work and they slowly went away at home for the next 3-4 hours. Until the next time I am exposed to wireless. The pain comes first intermittently in my head and sharp ear pains then my heart starts to get palpitations and BP increases or decreases and I can collapse and black out. It happened at work under the 3G antenna. I heard my skull cracking as it expanded and swelled from pressure and I collapsed and starting vomiting in a bucket. I don't know how I got to my car because I blacked out.

After the move to the top floor I only lasted 3 months and had to get out of that building to a different office location without towers. We moved to the top floor in late September and by early December I was so rundown with radiation my immunity dropped and I was knocked out for 2 weeks with a bad cold. I generally never catch colds or flu. This radiation wrecked me. The damage from wireless radiation is cumulative.

Cumulative damage means it's happening whether you know it or not. Every exposure pushed me over my tolerance and it's happening daily to more and more people since more powerful frequencies have been turned up. We have layers of 3G from various



carriers, TDMA, CDMA, and then we have 4G LTE and again multiple frequencies and carriers. On top we have 5G mm wave and Nationwide 5G with further in-building penetration. This is what pushed many people over the top. Since the day I started feeling pain near wireless my life has been a nightmare. It happened at a jury duty pool of 300 other people all streaming and using their devices all around me for hours. After about an hour I started having sharp head pains like an ice pick to my temple. Then heart palpitations started. They got stronger and stronger and I felt like I was going to have a heart attack. I sat there frozen afraid to say anything because I knew it would sound incredible strange. After more than 3 hours I had to say something. They looked up my issue and they dismissed me due to the RF microwave radiation causing my heart palpitations (like a microwave affects a pacemaker) and I cried all the way home, realizing how small and difficult my life would be if I couldn't be around other people or near towers, Wi-fi...

After leaving the high RF office I thought I would be OK as long as I stayed away from towers. But as I learned at jury duty 4 years later following my chronic exposures at work I started having sharp pains in my temple near anything wireless. I became sensitive also to electric and magnetic fields which also causes pain, numbness and tingling and cognitive impairments. I was driving a Tesla and it made me feel even worse after that day. I had to sell it. I suffered oxygen loss that lasted several days from the effects from the intense wireless exposure I got. I was gasping for air at night in bed (night is when the body goes into restore/healing mode and it makes people more sensitive). This happened for at least 4 nights. The oxygen loss comes from rouleaux formation Red Blood cells that become thick or clumpy near EMF... it results in cognitive impairments like short term memory loss, poor decision making, trouble with new learning, attention and focus and getting stuck in fight/flight/freeze. Magda Havas renowned researcher has shown how RF affects the blood, autonomic nervous system and heart.  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24192494/> My endocrine system stopped working correctly. After two weeks following jury duty I had lost 20 pounds. My weight loss continued for several months at 85 pounds or less as I stopped looking, afraid. My normal weight was 115-125. My body was demineralizing and not absorbing water. I was dying slowly from radiation sickness.

If I have to go to a medical appointment or almost any other place including outdoor places (like outdoor gardens, zoos, or historical places) they are almost always saturated with high and extreme levels of radiation as detected on the Safe and Sound Pro II meter. My home is an average of 0.4 to 10 W/m<sup>2</sup> (green indicator). At a beach nearby the level is a constant red peaking 100, 300 to over 700 (Red indicator for extreme). This environment has induced migraines, palpitations become sick and vomiting. Most people's newer 5G phones will be over 200,000 W/m<sup>2</sup>. Same for wireless printers, computers and even bluetooth powered games and toys. Driving on a US highway the meter picked up over 500,000 W/m<sup>2</sup>. And there is no wireless in our vehicle.

Places with low signal are disappearing quickly and we have a right to be outside in the world free from being radiated. Elon Musk is planning on polluting the sky with 7 thousand low orbit 5G satellites blanketing the entire planet in RF radiation causing more

illness and disability. I do not consent. Do you? For your pets, kids, grandkids??? Where does it end? No one should have to feel this way from wireless pollution. And make no mistake it is pollution blasting out of the towers, bathing the entire landscape with dangerous levels of Pulsed Microwave Radio-Frequency. Trees, plants, birds, bees, and more are being disrupted and harmed by the towers. Birds and bees and other insects are not migrating accurately because their own electrical magnetic navigation is disturbed by the artificial harmful frequencies. We have seen a 70% insect decline in populations and bee colonies collapse when they cannot find their way back to the hive. We have no time to lose by ignoring this issue.

Telecoms are the Tobacco companies of yesterday. They are using the same tactics and the damage being done to our bodies, minds and DNA is catastrophic. There are plenty of scientific studies. Thousands of reports showing cancers and neurological issues, heart issues and every organ in the body is affected. We are seeing epic levels of anxiety, depression, fibromyalgia, cancers, heart issues in younger children... This is no surprise when you are being slowly microwaved 24x7 at home, at school, in the car, at the store... They use RADAR in some stores to monitor store aisles, radiating people, with a known carcinogen! How is this legal? Towers pose another threat to food and water nearby. If you have Wi-fi and radar, and towers etc the land and soil microbiome are affected. Food inside markets also loses nutrition from being radiated in shipping or just the constant Wi-fi making food less vital. For the first time recently it was announced that life expectancy has decreased! No surprise. And we know fertility is a big issue because cells are affected and harmed by RF radiation.

I never thought my life would be stolen from me because I can't be around anything wireless. People are being isolated and it's a burden on the entire country when we can't work or participate in society. There are support groups and the numbers are growing quickly in recent years. There are millions of people affected worldwide. At the "conservative estimate" 3-10% of the population of the US (Total estimate 330,000,000) that would equal 9,900,000 to 33,000,000 people conservatively! There are at least 3-15% of the worldwide population who have become sick like me. And many more are becoming affected and developing all kinds of POTS, long Covid, chronic fatigue, ADHD, Autism and more.

For those who figured out what is causing their issues we are stuck at home almost all the time. We have so few places we can go. It is the saddest existence. Even the beaches near me have become so full of RF radiation from towers and nationwide 5G that if I spend more than a few hours I end up having a terrible migraine with brain swelling and I end up vomiting for hours. I have to wear heavy clothing lined with silver fibers to reduce signals. I have to wear long sleeve cotton under the shirts and cotton leggings under that so the silver doesn't touch my skin. I have a beanie to cover my head and ears. Leaded glass eyewear for my eyes. These clothing pieces are extremely expensive and they can't even be washed regularly because they will degrade. I sleep in a faraday tent with silver mesh to block any RF from satellites, neighbor's devices and towers.

In 2021 we had to sell our dream home to move to a more rural area away from towers but they are popping up all the time. There is a new tower that just sprang up across the street from my doctor. The hospital has 4G masts all over the roof. They are erecting a new giant tower near the last “safe” beach in my area. That’s the last place I can go and feel good out in public (if I can stay farther enough from people with their devices). It’s incredibly sad seeing the walls closing in and feeling like you will not have any meaningful existence. There are almost no businesses without wireless (salon, museums, restaurants, concerts, hotels, airplanes, etc) Where can we be safe? I pleaded with Plymouth Plantation to have a few hours where they might turn Wi-Fi off so I could spend a day outdoors and enjoy the historic place where they pretend it’s 1620. They advised me that a visit would not be recommended and they are unable to turn Wi-fi off. Can you imagine? I have lost my savings trying to get well, trying to protect myself. Now I am afraid every day a new tower, antenna or strong neighbor's device will be the end for me.

The United States has some of the highest allowable RF limits in the world, but no one thinks of the cumulative effect when you have millions of people around you with their 5G phones that have probably 10 antennas or more inside and add their Fitbits, apple watches, tablets, smart connected cars, AirPods, wireless medical devices, hearing aids, alarm systems, more powerful bluetooth and intense wi-fi routers... It's too much exposure. Towers have multiple carriers so the limits really need to be reduced greatly and the culture can move toward ethernet and wired connections in home and work environments, using less wireless for tasks except as needed. Apparently cell phones are even more addictive than heroin so there needs to be some work to reduce people's exposure. All I am asking for is safe places for people to live without towers close by, lower RF limits imposed and safe places for medical treatment without antennas on the roofs and outside the facilities. Sensitive populations must be protected. ...

**Kimberly Fischer Bunyan, March 9, 2023**

Both myself and children have chronic Lyme which has made us EMF sensitive. Currently we are looking for a place to move to where we can have less impact from the chronic health conditions we suffer made worse by emf in our environment. We even had to send our children at great expense and sacrifice to a Waldorf school which has no technology or WiFi swirling all day at school in order to mitigate the negative effects of Emfs.

These comments, along with those highlighted in the Advocates for the EMS Disabled NOI filings (both attached to these Reply Comments), provide pointed, poignant pleas for relief. These citizens are being hurt by the FCC policies and regulations. They deserve both recognition and accommodation. The Commission must finally accept that people’s health and very lives are at risk and begin to do something about it, starting here.

## CONCLUSION

The final rules, policies and actions flowing from this proceeding must (1) ensure that the definitions of “consumer” and “subscriber” include the EMS Disabled; (2) digital discrimination characteristics should include disability; (3) Commission rules and policies that are exacerbating digital discrimination of the EMS Disabled must be re-examined and reversed; (4) digital discrimination of access against the EMS Disabled must end and the EMS Disabled must be afforded “equal access” (5) fiber optics should be given priority for the disabled; and (6) there should be a dedicated portal for consumer complaints related to digital discrimination.

Respectfully Submitted,

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The following groups and individuals have granted permission to counsel to submit these Reply Comments on their behalf under the name of “Advocates for the EMS Disabled.”

Children’s Health Defense; Rocky Mountains for Safe Technology, California Fires & Firefighters, Susan Foster & Shannon Shine, Boulder County, CO; Wired Broadband, Inc. (non-profit), Odette J. Wilkens, President & General Counsel, Forest Hills, NY; Pittsfield Injured and Concerned Citizens, Courtney Gilardi, Pittsfield, MA; Kent Chamberlin, PhD, Professor and Chair Emeritus, former member of the NH Commission to Study The Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology, Durham, NH; Actionagainst5g, Karen Churchill, London, United Kingdom; Adult Child Health and Environmental Support (ACHES), Nicholas Martin, Wokingham, Berkshire, United Kingdom; Sehtab Ahmad, Sterling, VA; Albertans for Safe Technology, Lori Curran, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada; Alliance for Microwave Radiation Accountability, Inc, Michael Muadin, President, East Chatham, New York; Arizonans for Safe Technology, Valeri Marsh, Executive Director, Phoenix, AZ; Teri Bloom, New York, NY; Boyle Heights Community Garden, Brenda Trujillo, Los Angeles, CA; Prof. Dr. habil Klaus Buchner, (former) Member of the European Parliament, Prof. of Technische Universität München & Ökologisch-Demokratische Partei (Retired), Munich, Germany; California Brain Tumor Association, Ellen Marks, Director, Indian Wells, CA; Center for Safer Wireless, Desiree

Jaworski, Executive Director, Haymarket, VA; Californians for Safe Technology, Jodi Nelson, Director, Walnut Creek, CA; Citizens for Safer Tech, Sharon Noble, Director, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada; Citizens for Safer Tech, Sherry Ridout, Volunteer, British Columbia, Canada; Coloradans for Safe Technology, Founder, Nancy Van Dover, DVM OMD Dipl Acup, Durango, CO; Connecticut for Responsible Technology, grassroots, not-for-profit, Paska Nayden, Co-Founder, Easton, CT; Consumers for Safe Cell Phones, Cynthia Franklin, Director, Bellingham, WA; Julio Cruz, Los Angeles, CA; Families for Safe Technology, Eva Bortnick; Gail Dalby, Branford, CT; Richard Dalby, Branford, CT; Antonella DiSaverio, Astoria, NY; Eastside Parents, Eloise Galindo, Los Angeles, CA; Ecegul (AJ) Elterman, Bayville, NY; Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation (E.P.I.C.), Barbara Payne, President, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; EMF Safety Network, Sidnee Cox, CA; EM Radiation Research Trust, Eileen O'Connor, Charity Director, Leicestershire, United Kingdom; EMF Wellness Tucson, Lisa C. Smith, PhD, EMRS, Tucson, AZ; 5G Free California, Julie Levine, Executive Director and CEO, Topanga, CA; 5G Free Rhode Island, Sheila Resseger, M.A., Co-Founder, Cranston, RI; Kathleen Gildred, Topanga, CA; Howard Goodman, Esq., Forest Hills, NY; Felix Gruman, Queens NY; Sandra Heath, New York, NY; Idahoans For Safe Technology Foundation, Hank Allen, Vice President, Eagle, ID; Dr. Magda Havas, Professor Emerita, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada; Gunnar Heuser M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P., sole practitioner, clinical researcher, Sacramento, CA; Moira Hahn & Mark Hotchkiss, Long Beach, CA; Hilltown Health and Piti Theatre Company, Jonathan Mirin and Godeliève Richard, Directors, Shelburne Falls, MA; Amy Harlib, New York, NY; Charlene Hopey, Topanga, CA; Teresa Hommel, New York, NY; Ithacans for Responsible Technology, Ithaca, NY; Robert Janku, North Potomac, MD; Keep Cell Towers Away, Mark Graham, Founder, Elk Grove, CA; Ronald Kuriloff, Saugerties, New York; Antonio Garcia, Los Angeles, CA; Fabiola Garcia, Los Angeles, CA; Magdalena Gonzales, Bell, CA; Last Tree Laws, Kirstin Beatty, Holyoke, MA; Marie LeBlanc, Artist, Quartzsite, AZ; Bonnie Loewenstein, Brooklyn, NY; Kevin Lorenzen, Placitas, NM; Manitobans for Safe Technology, Marg Friesen, Director, Canada; Teresa Martinez, Moreno Valley, CA; Marie Molnar, Ithaca, NY; Andrew Molnar, Ithaca, NY; MA for Safe Technology, Cecelia Doucette, Director, Sheffield, MA; MalibuForSafeTech.org, Lonnie Gordon, Exec. Director, Malibu, CA; Manhattan Neighbors for Safer Telecommunication and ElectromagneticHealth.org, Camilla Rees, Founder; George Martinez, Los Angeles, CA; Linda Minarik, New York, NY; mocoSafeG.org, Montgomery County, MD; Mothers of East LA, Terry Marquez, Director, Los Angeles, CA; Andrea Mercier, Colorado Springs, CO; National Health Federation, Scott Tips, President; New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech, New York, NY; Oregon for Safer Technology, Kelly Marcotulli, Executive Director, Ashland, OR; Radiation Protection Foundation, Mona Nilsson, Director, Adelsö, Stockholm, Sweden; Valerie Pegues-Johnson, Glen Allen, VA; Pennsylvanians for Safe Technology, Donna DeSanto Ott, PT DPT MS; Nohemi Reyes, Bell, CA; Sara Reyes, Bell, CA; Rhode Islanders for Safe Technology, Stephen R. Dahl, Director, Kingston, Rhode Island; Scott Rummler, Start-Up Founder, New York, NY; Lynne Rossman; Natalie Sadler, MD, Black Mountain, NC; SafeCell01240, Karen Beckwith, Lenox, MA; Safe Tech International, Kate Kheel, Founder, Taneytown, MD; Safe Tech International, Sarah Aminoff, Member, Union City CA; Safe Tech International, Patricia Burke, Member, Mills, MA; Safe Tech 4 Santa Rosa, Mary Dahl, Member, Santa Rosa, CA; Safe Technology Minnesota, Petra Brokken, Director, Saint Paul, Minnesota; Safe Tech Tucson, Tucson, AZ; SafeTech Westchester, Ruth F. Moss, White Plains; Cecilia Sanchez, Placitas, NM; Arlene Sanchez, Placitas, NM; Allen Schoen, Saltspring Island, British Columbia, Canada; Bernadette

Shultz, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada; Scientific Alliance for Education, Nina Anderson, President, Sheffield, MA; Peter Sierck, Principal/Senior Industrial Hygienist, EMF & RF Solutions / Environmental Testing & Technologies, Encinitas, CA; Frederick P Sinclair Jr., Alfred, NY; Smart Meter Education Network, Linda Kurtz, Director, Tucson, AZ; Southwest Ohio for Responsible Technology, Lisa Jobe, Member, Lebanon, OH; Stop 5g Jax, Lisa Lovelady, Member, Jacksonville, Florida; Stop Smart Meters! Josh Hart, Director; Ruben Tadeo, Los Angeles, CA; SW Pennsylvania for Safe Technology, Susan Jennings, Founder, Mount Pleasant, PA; Thepeoplesinitiative.org, Liz Barris, Director, Topanga, CA; Unión Binacional de Organizaciones de Trabajadores Mexicanos Ex Braceros 1942-1964, Baldomero Capiz, Los Angeles, CA; Virginians for Safe Technology, Fredericksburg, VA; and Dulcy Wilson, individual citizen of USA and Canada, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Advocates for the EMS Disabled May 15, 2022 NOI Initial Comments**

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Implementing the Infrastructure Investment	)	GN Docket No. 22-69
and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of	)	
Digital Discrimination	)	

**COMMENTS OF ADVOCATES FOR THE EMS DISABLED  
IN RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF INQUIRY**

Children’s Health Defense, Susan Foster, Medical Writer, Fire & Utility Consultant;  
Odette J. Wilkens, President & General Counsel, Wired Broadband, Inc.; Frank Clegg,  
(formerly, President of Microsoft Canada), Canadians for Safe Technology; Arizonans for Safe  
Technology; 5G Free California; Desiree Jaworski, Executive Director, Center for Safer  
Wireless; Kent Chamberlin, PhD, Former member of the NH Commission to Study The  
Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology; Californians for Safe  
Technology; Coloradans for Safe Technology; Larry Ortega, Community Union, Inc.; Paska  
Nayden, Connecticut for Responsible Technology; Cynthia Franklin, Director, Consumers for  
Safe Cell Phones; Ms. Antonella DiSaverio; Ms. Eva Bortnick; Families for Safe  
Technology.org; Howard Goodman, Esq.; Safe Technology Minnesota; Ms. Karol Kuehn; Keep  
Cell Towers Away, Elk Grove, CA; 5G Free Rhode Island; The Leto Foundation; Maine  
Coalition to Stop Smart Meters; Mrs. Marie Molnar; Mr. Andrew Molnar; Napa Neighborhood  
For Safe Technology; MA for Safe Technology; Mrs. Pamela Wallace, Director, Safe Tech  
Forward Michigan; New Hampshire for Safe Technology; New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech; Oregon  
for Safe Technology; Eugene J. Bazan, PhD, Secretary, PA Smart Meter Work Group;  
Pennsylvanians for Safe Technology; Stephen R Dahl, Director, Rhode Islanders for Safe  
Technology; Safe Tech International, Safe Tech 4 Santa Rosa; Virginians for Safe Technology;



Toxics Information Project; Ms. Anne Wilder, Priest River, Idaho; Ms. Donna Romo; Mark Wahl, Director, Citizen League Encouraging Awareness of Radiation of Whidbey Island, WA; Manhattan Neighbors for Safer Telecommunication; ElectromagneticHealth.org; Lendri Purcell, Founder, Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety; Ms. Linda Dance; Lex Kisteneff, CEO & Founder, The South Carolina Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards s; mocoSafeG.org in Montgomery County, MD; and Last Tree Laws (hereafter “Advocates for the EMS Disabled”) submit these comments in response to the Notice of Inquiry<sup>1</sup> in the above-captioned proceeding.

### **Introduction and Summary**

Advocates for the EMS Disabled applaud the Commission’s initial effort to “ensure equal access to high-quality, affordable broadband internet access service.” We also fully support the emphasis on “harms experienced by historically excluded and marginalized communities” and the desire for “meaningful policy reforms and systems improvements, as well as a framework for collaborative action to extend digital opportunity to everyone.” NOI ¶1.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (2021) (“Infrastructure Act”)<sup>2</sup> seeks to “prevent and eliminate digital discrimination” “based on income level, race, ethnicity, color, religion, or national origin.” 47 U.S.C. §1754(b)(1). It demands “equal access” to “broadband services,” e.g., “the equal opportunity to subscribe to an offered service that provides comparable speeds, capacities, latency, and other quality of service metrics in a given area, for comparable terms and conditions.” §1754(a)(1)-(3). As noted in NOI §6 the Infrastructure Act supplemented the Commission’s pre-existing authority to ensure nondiscriminatory universal service for common carrier service and extended many of the same

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of Inquiry, *Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination*, FCC 22-21, GN Docket No. 22-69 (Mar. 2022) (“FCC DEI NOP”).

<sup>2</sup> Section 60506 of the Infrastructure Act is codified at 47 U.S.C. §1754, *Digital Discrimination*.

principles to broadband internet access service, which is part of “advanced telecommunications capability” but currently classified as a non-common carrier information service under the Commission’s current rules.

Advocates for the EMS Disabled also support the Commission’s enunciated goals to advance “equity in the provision of and access to digital communication services and products for all people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability.” NOI ¶7 (emphasis added). Although §1754(b)(1) does not expressly include the disabled community within its coverage, the general “equal access” to “all people” requirements in §1754(a)(2) and (3) implicitly do. Therefore, the Commission should conclude that the “listed characteristics in section 60506(b)(1)” are ***not*** “exclusive (NOI ¶24) and disability status is a protected “characteristic” for purposes of the Infrastructure Act. This interpretation would be fully consistent with existing Commission authority, [Executive Order 13985 \(Jan. 20, 2021\)](#) and the Commission’s [Equity Action Plan](#) responding to Executive Order 13985, which expressly recognizes that “persons with disabilities” “disproportionately lack access to broadband internet service.”

Even if the Infrastructure Act’s listed “characteristics” are fairly viewed as exclusive, the Commission has other general and specific authority to ensure the disabled do not suffer digital discrimination and have equal access to broadband:

- Section 152(18) incorporates the Americans with Disabilities Act definition (42 U.S.C. §12102).
- Section 225 contains special authority for the speech and hearing impaired.
- Section 255 requires that telecommunications equipment, customer premises equipment and telecommunications services be “accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities” or at least be “compatible with peripheral devices or specialized customer premises equipment commonly used by individuals with disabilities.”

- Section 256 allows the Commission to participate in standards setting activities that “promote access to” “network capabilities and services by individuals with disabilities.”
- Section 1302(a) encourages “deployment on a reasonable and timely basis of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans.”
- The FCC is subject to Rehabilitation Act Section 504, 29 U.S.C. §794, and this proceeding along with any rules or policy determinations will be made as part of a “program or activity” as defined in §1.803 of the Commission’s rules. If the rules or policy determinations impact federal assistance the recipients will also be covered by Section 504’s nondiscrimination and access requirements relating to the disabled.
- There are many other codified and non-codified provisions addressing disabled access, universal service and nondiscrimination scattered throughout the Communications Act including, of course, the general and overarching purposes and policies stated in 47 U.S.C. §151.

These comments will make two principal points, one general and the other specific.

First, the Commission must continue to recognize that wireless-based services do not now and likely never will “provide[] comparable speeds, capacities, latency, and other quality of service metrics in a given area, for comparable terms and conditions” (§1754(a)(2)) in comparison to fiber to the premises. Wireless may constitute “advanced telecommunications capability” but it is still a *complement to*, not an adequate substitute for fiber-fed service. A wireless based user will not receive the same speed, capacity, latency or quality of service and the terms and conditions are not comparable to those for wired (fiber) based access. This is especially so for mobile services, but even fixed wireless solutions are inferior to direct fiber-fed service to the premises. The Commission should always prioritize “to the premise” fiber solutions and rely on wireless only when wired is technically or economically infeasible or the main purpose is mobility.

Second, the disability community is diverse. There are many kinds of disabilities due to a host of causes and each kind gives rise to different needs. There is, however, a much-ignored but large and growing part of the disability community that has been specially harmed and suffers

unique digital discrimination: those who cannot be around Radio Frequency Radiation (RF) because it makes them sick or sicker. Some estimates indicate that up to *thirty percent* of the population – almost 40 million people – suffer at least mild symptoms after exposure to RF.<sup>3</sup> Five percent (5%) – around 17 million – suffer moderate symptoms. One and a half percent (1.5%), or almost 5 million people suffer “severe symptoms” and 0.65% (2.16 million) are so disabled they cannot work at all. Those with “severe symptoms” have “physical or mental impairment[s] that substantially limit[] one or more major life activities.” 42 U.S.C. §12102(1)(A). They are the “EMS Disabled” community on behalf of whom these comments are filed. Wireless exposure is the direct cause of or a major contributing factor to the impairment. This technology is making millions of Americans sick, and it is past time that this pan-epidemic<sup>4</sup> be recognized and addressed.

Forcing exposure – even as part of a genuine and kind-hearted effort to afford broadband access – is itself a form of discrimination as a matter of law. More important it is fundamentally inequitable because it leads to great harm. Those with severe symptoms are functionally excluded from public participation since almost all public spaces are flooded with RF – a toxin to them. Those with wireless facilities nearby cannot even take refuge in their own homes; they are driven out and consigned to a more miserable and sometimes hostile and threatening environment.

If the Commission is sincere about achieving “diversity, equity and inclusion” it must recognize this specific problem and take the kind of special measures to address it that are within its regulatory remit. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and

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<sup>3</sup> The Prevalence of People with Restricted Access to Work in Manmade Electromagnetic Environments, <https://mdsafetech.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/2018-prevalence-of-electromagnetic-sensitivity.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> “Scientists 5G appeal,” available at <http://www.5gappeal.eu/the-5g-appeal/>.

buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. The Commission can and should establish such zones, or at least allow local and state authorities to do so without threat or fear of litigation on preemption grounds. The attached paper by Susan Foster and Odette J. Wilkins, “Eliminating Digital Discrimination for the EMS Disabled” provides even more suggestions.

Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband; otherwise they will functionally be denied access to any broadband at all. The RF-sensitive community in general and especially the EMS disabled community in particular must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being.

## **I. WIRED (FIBER-BASED) BROADBAND SHOULD BE THE PREFERRED MODE OF BROADBAND ACCESS DELIVERY**

The Commission must continue to recognize that wireless-based services do not now and likely will never “provide[] comparable speeds, capacities, latency, and other quality of service metrics in a given area, for comparable terms and conditions” (§1754(a)(2)) in comparison to “fiber to the premises” (“FTTP,” also known as “fiber to the home” or “FTTH”) Wireless may constitute “advanced telecommunications capability”<sup>5</sup> but it is still a *complement to*, not an adequate substitute for fixed service<sup>6</sup> and especially FTTH. A wireless based user will not receive the same speed, capacity, latency or quality of service and the terms and conditions are not comparable to those for wired (fiber) based access. This is especially so for mobile services,

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<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 1302(d)(1).

<sup>6</sup> See, *In re Inquiry Concerning Deployment of ATC to All Americans*, FCC 20-50, ¶¶10-12, 35 FCC Rcd 8986, 8991 (Apr. 2020) (“*Fourteenth Broadband Competition Report*”) (“...fixed broadband generally delivers faster speeds, permits higher consumption at a lower price, and has far higher data caps,... While users may substitute between mobile and fixed broadband when accessing certain services and applications, the record indicates that they are not yet functional substitutes for all uses and customer groups. Based on the record before us, we again find that fixed broadband and mobile wireless broadband services are not functional substitutes in all cases.”) (notes omitted).

but even fixed wireless solutions are inferior to direct fiber-fed service to the premises. The Commission should always prioritize “to the premise” fiber solutions and rely on wireless only when wired is technically or economically infeasible or the main purpose is mobility.

1. Fiber to the premise offers higher speeds, better reliability, is more secure and costs less.

FTTP is far superior to all other network architectures, including “fiber to the node” with the last link serviced through copper, coaxial or a wireless link. FTTP offers fully symmetrical multi-gigabit service, less opportunity for congestion because of backhaul limits, better reliability in the face of bad weather, no chance of signal obstruction by vegetation or buildings and lower aesthetic impacts that contribute to visual blight. It is more secure and presents lower risks from electrical fires. FTTP has lower energy needs in relation to wireless, so it has less environmental impact, as explained below. The fiber itself has almost infinite capacity;<sup>7</sup> it is limited only by the capabilities of the equipment at each end. Fiber is futureproof.<sup>8</sup>

Although FTTP does require a physical, tangible link all the way to the premise and often involves higher front-end capital costs and longer construction time, FTTP is far better over the long run. For example, the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) is far less than the cost of Fixed Wireless Access over the long run. Operations, maintenance and replacement/upgrade costs are lower. The facilities themselves last for a very long time. Some periodic end-link equipment

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<sup>7</sup> Researchers in the Netherlands were able to transmit 255 terabits per second down a single strand in 2014. [255 Terabits/s: Researchers demonstrate record data transmission over new type of fiber](#), Eindhoven University of Technology (Oct. 27, 2014). A single fiber could, in theory, carry all the world’s traffic. [255Tbps: World's fastest network could carry all of the internet's traffic on a single fiber](#), Telepresence Options (Oct. 29, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> Former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler Testimony to Congress, [https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Witness%20Testimony\\_Wheeler\\_FC\\_2021.03.22.pdf](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Witness%20Testimony_Wheeler_FC_2021.03.22.pdf).

replacement may be required but the cost is relatively low in comparison to the costs associated with required persistent wireless node upgrades.<sup>9</sup> If one looks at long-run “cost per bit” FTTH is almost always the clear winner.

Dr. Timothy Schoechle, PhD, communications technology expert at the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy observes that, “[f]iber is unmatched in its speed, performance, reliability, etc. ... Wireless is not a substitute for fiber.”<sup>10</sup> Fiber is more affordable, scalable from symmetrical (upload and download) speeds of 100 Mbps to 1Gbps to 10Gbps, has a longer life span of 25-50 years and is safer and more cybersecure, has lower operational expenses,<sup>11</sup> and is available at more affordable prices. By contrast, wireless typically requires equipment upgrades, constant maintenance and re-investments about every 5 years. An example of fiber deployment, consumers in Hudson County, TN have multiple service options, which include speeds of up to 1000 Mbps (1 Gbps). Pricing and capacity are scalable and provide for 300 Mbps at \$57.99/month and 1 Gbps at \$67.99, in each instance with symmetrical speeds.<sup>12</sup> Wireless technology is not able to effectively compete with similar high-speed Internet, with the FCC only

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<sup>9</sup> A 2020 assessment of the cost to serve a King County, Washington community using FTTP and Fixed Wireless concluded that: “Overall, a fiber investment would have higher capital costs than wireless but much lower operating costs—and would be a better investment over time. Based on engineering and cost-estimation of both a wired (fiber-to-the-premises) and a fixed wireless solution for unserved King County, we conclude that overall, FTTP represents a better broadband solution than fixed wireless for most unserved areas of King County. While FTTP has a higher initial capital cost per passing than a fixed wireless solution, the total cost of operations of FTTP over a 10-year period would be approximately half that of fixed wireless in the same unserved areas—primarily because of the need to replace wireless equipment at relatively short intervals and the cost of leasing space on commercial towers.” Broadband Access Study, p. 21, King County, Washington (Dec. 2019), available at <https://kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/it/services/cable/202002-Broadband-Access-Study.ashx?la=en>.

<sup>10</sup> *Reinventing Wires*, Timothy Schoechle, PhD, National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy, <https://electromagnetichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ReInventing-Wires-1-25-18.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://optics.fiberbroadband.org/Full-Article/reduce-network-operating-expenses-choose-ftth>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://bestneighborhood.org/tv-and-internet-hamilton-county-tn/>.

requiring 25 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload speeds.<sup>13, 14</sup> The Fiber Broadband Association has shown that consumers prefer the symmetrical speeds that fiber provides.<sup>15</sup> As the largest fiber optics trade association in the U.S. states, “If it isn’t fiber, it isn’t broadband.”<sup>16</sup>

Most important, the retail price for FTTP is less expensive on a month-to-month basis than most of the current alternatives, especially mobile broadband. This is particularly so if one considers price using consumption (GB uploaded/downloaded over entire billing period) or using instantaneous demand (MB/GB capacity) as the metric.

FTTP provides the best capacity for remote learning for children and students, and more reliable access to medical and other services for the elderly and disabled during emergencies or severe weather when wireless service is more likely to be interrupted. FTTP would also prevent the exclusion of those disabled or suffering from wireless RFR who cannot be near wireless infrastructure or wireless Internet. These residents should have equal access to broadband – a necessary service – in a manner that does not injure them and that does not otherwise put them in harm’s way. After all, people cannot adopt a technology that is injuring them.

2. Mobile service is technically inferior, has more use limitations, has worse environmental and aesthetic impacts and costs more at retail.

Mobile broadband is technically inferior to FTTH. It may fit the definition of “advanced telecommunications capability in §706,<sup>17</sup> but it does not afford “comparable speeds, capacities, latency, and other quality of service metrics in a given area, for comparable terms and

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.allconnect.com/blog/internet-speed-classifications-what-is-fast-internet>.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/broadband-progress-reports/2018-broadband-deployment-report>.

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.broadbandworldnews.com/document.asp?doc\\_id=773546](https://www.broadbandworldnews.com/document.asp?doc_id=773546).

<sup>16</sup>

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.fiberbroadband.org/download/3555.4237?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIZGD7FMLIYLBZNI&Expires=1650065068&Signature=CfFGHmOkZaAovAfuGmXXs2hDpKo%3D>.

<sup>17</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 1302(d)(1).



conditions”<sup>18</sup> when compared to FTTH-based services. Mobile broadband has lower speed, less capacity, often higher latency and lower quality of service, and the terms are far more onerous, especially for data.

Mobile broadband service typically has data caps and other use restrictions that make it less attractive as the primary means to fully engage in and use all the features, functions and services that can be accessed through advanced communications capability.<sup>19</sup> Those with limited means need equal access to these full capabilities, and mobile broadband simply does not suffice as the primary source, especially given pricing differences that make FTTH far less expensive on a capacity and per-bit basis and more amenable to sharing between multiple end user devices.

Environmental justice is a major part of diversity, equity and inclusion. “Climate change is an environmental justice issue because certain groups of people in the United States are disproportionately affected by climate change and are less able than others to adapt to or recover from climate change impacts.”<sup>20</sup> Although the *NOI* does not mention environmental justice, the environmental impact of various communications architectures on the “characteristics” covered by the Infrastructure Act must be considered in this proceeding.

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<sup>18</sup> 47 U.S.C. §1754(a)(2).

<sup>19</sup> *Fourteenth Broadband Competition Report*, ¶11 and nn. 41, 42, citing ADTRAN Comments at 7; Common Cause et al. Comments at 3, 21, 25-26; INCOMPAS Comments at 11-12; NTCA Comments at 2-3; Open Technology Institute & Access Now Comments at 12-13; CWA Reply at 4; Open Technology Institute & Access Now Reply at 10, 12-13. 42 ADTRAN Comments at 7; Broadband Connects America Comments at 10; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Comments at 5-6; CWA Reply at 4. See also, *In the Matter of Communications Marketplace Report*, FCC 20-188, ¶¶137-139, 36 FCC Rcd 2945, 3043-3044 & associated notes (Dec. 2020) (“*2020 Communications Marketplace Report*”).

<sup>20</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, [Climate Change, Health, and Environmental Justice](https://www.cmu.edu/steinbrenner/EPA%20Factsheets/ej-health-climate-change.pdf) (May, 2016), copy available at <https://www.cmu.edu/steinbrenner/EPA%20Factsheets/ej-health-climate-change.pdf>.

Mobile broadband requires far more energy than does FTTH.<sup>21</sup> The transition to 5G, whether 5G NR (non-standalone) or 5G Standalone NR, will exacerbate this situation until newer and far more efficient equipment can be designed and deployed and 5G networks can fully implement use of their emerging “sleep mode” capability.<sup>22</sup> But even with “sleep mode” the energy consumption profile will still be much higher than that associated with FTTH. Environmental Heath Trust provides an extensive summary of this and much more evidence on the topic, with citation to recent sources, on its website.<sup>23</sup> All this energy consumption will translate into far more greenhouse gas output, thereby contributing to existing climate issues.

Finally, FTTH does not contribute to visual blight or present significant aesthetics concerns. The last mile facilities can be entirely underground or lashed to existing utility infrastructure without much aesthetics ado. One of the most contentious aspects of local permitting for fixed and mobile broadband facilities, on the other hand, is the visual and other aesthetic problems. Simply put, they are ugly and most “concealment” efforts are shockingly

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<sup>21</sup> A 2020 study by the German by the Federal Environment Ministry and the German Environment Agency concluded that “Fiber optic is the most climate-friendly transmission technology” and “Fibre optic video transmission is nearly 50 times more efficient than UMTS.” Joint release by the Federal Environment Ministry and the German Environment Agency, Video streaming: data transmission technology crucial for climate footprint Fibre optic video transmission is nearly 50 times more efficient than UMTS, (Oct. 9, 2020), available at, <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/press/pressinformation/video-streaming-data-transmission-technology>.

<sup>22</sup> The 5G Dilemma: More Base Stations, More Antennas—Less Energy? 5G networks will likely consume more energy than 4G, but one expert says the problem may not be as bad as it seems, Dexter Johnson, IEEE Spectrum (Oct. 3, 2018), available at <https://spectrum.ieee.org/will-increased-energy-consumption-be-the-achilles-heel-of-5g-networks>. For “sleep mode” background see Ericsson, A technical look at 5G energy consumption and performance, Frenger and Tano (Sept. 19, 2019), available at <https://www.ericsson.com/en/blog/2019/9/energy-consumption-5g-nr>.

<sup>23</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/science/reports-on-power-consumption-and-increasing-energy-use-of-wireless-systems-and-digital-ecosystem/>.

ineffective no matter the approach. People just do not want these things near their homes or in scenic areas, and for good reason.

3. Fixed wireless service is technically inferior and costs more from a consumption or demand perspective.

Fixed wireless service is closer to FTTH in terms of performance but still not the same. It too does not afford “comparable speeds, capacities, latency, and other quality of service metrics in a given area, for comparable terms and conditions”<sup>24</sup> when compared to FTTH-based services. Fixed wireless also presents many of the same environmental and aesthetic concerns as mobile, since similar equipment is used. FTTH is the clear preferred solution.

The Commission should always prioritize “fiber to the premise” solutions and rely on mobile or fixed wireless only when fully wired is technically or economically infeasible or the main purpose is mobility.

## **II. THE COMMISSION MUST FINALLY RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF AND NEED FOR SPECIAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE EMS DISABLED COMMUNITY**

The disability community is diverse – there are many kinds of disabilities due to a host of causes. There is, however, a presently invisible and ignored but large and growing part of the disability community that has been specially harmed and suffers unique digital discrimination: those who cannot be around RF because it makes them sick or sicker. Wireless exposure is the direct cause of or a major contributing factor to the very “physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of” these individuals. 42 U.S.C. §12102(1)(A). Forcing exposure – even as part of a genuine and kind-hearted effort to afford broadband access – is itself a form of discrimination as a matter of law. More important it is fundamentally inequitable because it leads to great harm. Those with this condition are

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<sup>24</sup> 47 U.S.C. §1754(a)(2).

functionally excluded from public participation since almost all public spaces are flooded with RF – a toxin to them. When wireless facilities are nearby they cannot even take refuge in their own homes; they are driven out and consigned to a more miserable and sometimes hostile and threatening environment.

The paper attached to this filing goes into greater detail and provides four stories about EMS disabled individuals. There are millions more just like them – and the Commission itself is a major reason they are suffering today. RF sensitivity is ***not*** idiopathic. The biological evidence is clear, the science is clear, the medical community is closing ranks on this issue, and the FCC must now either get in front of the problem or get out of the way and let others with more health expertise and compassion begin instituting solutions.

If the Commission is sincere about achieving “diversity, equity and inclusion” it ***must*** finally recognize this specific problem, accept the blame for the FCC’s part in it and take immediate special measures to remediate the harms. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband as a matter of right; otherwise they will functionally be denied access to any broadband at all. Those who are RF-sensitive and especially those with EMS disabilities – like all other excluded and marginalized communities – must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Commission should always prioritize “fiber to the premise” solutions and rely on mobile or fixed wireless only when fully wired is technically or economically infeasible or the main purpose is mobility. Those who are RF-sensitive and especially those with EMS disabilities

must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. They should be able to obtain FTTH as a matter of right. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

Respectfully Submitted,

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The following groups and individuals have granted permission to counsel to submit these comments on their behalf under the name of “Advocates for the EMS Disabled”:

Susan Foster, Medical Writer, Fire & Utility Consultant; Odette J. Wilkens, President & General Counsel, Wired Broadband, Inc.; Frank Clegg, (formerly, President of Microsoft Canada), Canadians for Safe Technology; Arizonans for Safe Technology; 5G Free California; Desiree Jaworski, Executive Director, Center for Safer Wireless; Kent Chamberlin, PhD, Former member of the NH Commission to Study The Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology; Californians for Safe Technology; Coloradans for Safe Technology; Larry Ortega, Community Union, Inc.; Paska Nayden, Connecticut for Responsible Technology; Cynthia Franklin, Director, Consumers for Safe Cell Phones; Ms. Antonella DiSaverio; Ms. Eva Bortnick; Families for Safe Technology.org; Howard Goodman, Esq.; Safe Technology Minnesota; Ms. Karol Kuehn; Keep Cell Towers Away, Elk Grove, CA; 5G Free Rhode Island; The Leto Foundation; Maine Coalition to Stop Smart Meters; Mrs. Marie Molnar; Mr. Andrew Molnar; Napa Neighborhood For Safe Technology; MA for Safe Technology; Mrs. Pamela Wallace, Director, Safe Tech Forward Michigan; New Hampshire for Safe Technology; New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech; Oregon for Safe Technology; Eugene J. Bazan, PhD, Secretary, PA Smart Meter Work Group; Pennsylvanians for Safe Technology; Stephen R Dahl, Director, Rhode Islanders for Safe Technology; Safe Tech International, Safe Tech 4 Santa Rosa; Virginians for Safe Technology; Toxics Information Project; Ms. Anne Wilder, Priest River, Idaho; Ms. Donna Romo; Mark Wahl, Director, Citizen League Encouraging Awareness of Radiation of Whidbey Island, WA; Manhattan Neighbors for Safer Telecommunication; ElectromagneticHealth.org; Lendri Purcell, Founder, Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety; Ms. Linda Dance; Lex Kisteneff, CEO & Founder, The South Carolina Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards; mocoSafeG.org in Montgomery County, MD; and Last Tree Laws

ATTACHMENT TO COMMENTS

Eliminating Digital Discrimination For the EMS Disabled (Susan Foster and Odette J. Wilkins)

## Eliminating Digital Discrimination For the EMS Disabled

According to Amnesty International “discrimination occurs when a person is unable to enjoy his or her human rights or other legal rights on an equal basis with others because of an unjustified distinction made in policy, law or treatment.” “Indirect discrimination is when a law, policy, or practice is presented in neutral terms (that is, no explicit distinctions are made) but it disproportionately disadvantages a specific group or groups.” “Direct discrimination is when an explicit distinction is made between groups of people that results in individuals from some groups being less able than others to exercise their rights.”<sup>1</sup>

“Digital discrimination” usually refers to bias built into algorithmic systems, such as in Internet search engines such as Google or Yahoo, “which gives rise to various forms of ‘digital discrimination.’”<sup>2</sup> The Federal Communications Commission’s Notice of Inquiry<sup>3</sup> uses the phrase in a different sense: it focuses on whether there is systemic discrimination in access to the “high-quality, affordable broadband” that allows people to use and enjoy the Internet. *FCC DEI NOI* ¶¶1, 2. This paper demonstrates that those who are disabled<sup>4</sup> by injuries caused by wireless radiation suffer from *both* algorithmic and access-based digital discrimination, sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly. The Commission has significantly contributed to this discrimination, at times knowingly so.

There is a large and diverse community of individuals who significantly suffer from wireless radiation exposure from wireless base stations, cell phones and other telecommunications infrastructure and devices. Many have symptoms that give rise to “impairment[s] that substantially limit[] one or more major life activities” 42 U.S.C. §12102(1)(A). Although there are various names for the condition, a common term is electro-magnetic sensitivity (EMS). Those with severe symptoms are “EMS disabled.”

This White Paper addresses:

- The impact of digital discrimination on the EMS disabled
- The EMS disabled are disadvantaged communities

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<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, Discrimination, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination/>.

<sup>2</sup> “Algorithmic Regulation” by Karen Yeung and Martin Lodge, chapter on “Digital Discrimination” by Natalia Criado, 2019, <https://oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780198838494.001.0001/oso-9780198838494-chapter-4#:~:text=Digital%20discrimination%20entails%20treating%20individuals,automatically%20processed%20by%20an%20algorithm.>

<sup>3</sup> Notice of Inquiry, Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination, FCC 22-21, GN Docket No. 22-69 (Mar. 2022) (“*FCC DEI NOI*”).

<sup>4</sup> A Centers for Disease Control website “[What is disability?](#)” explains that:

A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions). There are many types of disabilities, such as those that affect a person’s:

Vision	Remembering	Hearing
Movement	Learning	Mental health
Thinking	Communicating	Social relationships

Although “people with disabilities” sometimes refers to a single population, this is actually a diverse group of people with a wide range of needs. Two people with the same type of disability can be affected in very different ways. Some disabilities may be hidden or not easy to see.

## Eliminating Digital Discrimination For the EMS Disabled (Susan Foster and Odette J. Wilkins)

- Brief history on the disabled community's efforts to end discrimination
- How EMS communities compare to other disabled communities
- The settled science from the FCC, FDA, industry and independent experts on EMF health effects
- Federal agencies creating barriers for relief for the EMS disabled
- Energy consumption and pollution from wireless Infrastructure
- The need to accommodate the EMS disabled, metrics and guidelines
- Adopting Former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's "fiber-first" policy: fiber optics broadband is a necessity for disadvantaged communities, is the best solution to bridge the digital divide (although adopting a fiber-first policy would ameliorate but not eliminate discrimination against the EMS disabled)
- Addendum: Stories of the EMS disabled – in their own words

### The Impact of Digital Discrimination on the EMS Disabled

Digital discrimination involving algorithmic bias, e.g., in Internet search engine results, reflects and amplifies discrimination in physical space. The EMS disabled suffer algorithmic bias. Search results belittle and invalidate the sufferings of the EMS disabled. The following provides an insight into algorithmic bias:

"Digital discrimination entails treating individuals unfairly, unethically, or just differently based on their personal data that is automatically processed by an algorithm. Digital discrimination often reproduces the existing instances of discrimination in the offline world by either inheriting the biases of prior decision-makers, or simply reflecting widespread prejudices in society."<sup>5</sup>

For example, the scourge of racial discrimination has existed in the physical world throughout history. Its reflection in digital technologies is a new and emerging problem, arising from algorithms' use of race as a profiling factor.<sup>6</sup> Algorithmic biases also discriminate against the EMS disabled. A simple search on Google, for instance, yield results showing a bias against EMS symptoms caused by electro-magnetic frequencies (EMFs) or wireless radiation, despite settled scientific evidence to the contrary. However, the range of issues to address regarding the EMS disabled is even greater than just digital discrimination and extends to misinformation on the Internet that disadvantages the EMS disabled, though not specifically data run through algorithms.

The EMS disabled also significantly suffer from access discrimination, the subject of the *FCC DEI NOI*. They too need broadband, but exposure to wireless broadband emissions sets off their symptoms, so they cannot use wireless technologies or even be around wireless systems. They must use only wired broadband at home or work. A nearby wireless system can drive them from their own homes – a form of constructive eviction. Further, they must avoid many public spaces, including most government and civic buildings that are pervasively covered with electro-magnetic frequencies (EMFs) and radio frequency radiation (RFR) so they cannot meet in person with their government representatives or gather in public with the rest of society. The EMS disabled are unable to work or participate in society and they are routinely even driven from their homes and into homelessness. They egregiously suffer from direct and indirect digital

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<sup>5</sup> Digital Discrimination, Id.

<sup>6</sup> "Emerging digital technologies entrench racial inequality, UN expert warns," <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/07/emerging-digital-technologies-entrench-racial-inequality-un-expert-warns>.



discrimination in the physical world, they face significant access discrimination and they are subjected to algorithmic discrimination.

## **The EMS Disabled are Disadvantaged Communities**

President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative is designed “to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.”<sup>7</sup> The project focused on how disadvantaged communities should be defined<sup>8</sup> and what metrics the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should use to achieve the Initiative’s goals.

How disadvantaged communities are defined is important and needs to be flexible and inclusive. The *FCC DEI NOI* correctly and properly includes the disabled as a whole, but it entirely ignores those disabled by injuries caused by wireless radiation – the EMS disabled. The *FCC DEI NOI* itself discriminates.

The EMS disabled, however, are disadvantaged communities. As an environmental justice issue, the communities that have been left behind are those injured from wireless radiation from base stations, cell phones, and telecommunications infrastructure facilities placed right next to their homes, businesses, schools, medical facilities and other public locations. These disadvantaged communities are significantly suffering from wireless radiation exposure as a result. Base station antennas are being forced onto residents, without notice, without their consent, and without any consideration to injuries to their health, no matter how much they are injured and despite incontrovertible evidence of those injuries.

Wireless radiation cannot be perceived with the naked eye or by smell (such as gas leaking from a stove) and therefore goes unnoticed until one develops symptoms or is injured by it. Nor is there an alarm, as is required for carbon monoxide detection, which also cannot be perceived with the naked eye or by smell, until it is too late to recover. Because wireless radiation is invisible, so, apparently, are the EMS disabled.

Presenting the information in this white paper is an effort to make visible what is otherwise invisible.

Those suffering from exposure to wireless radiation are known as having electromagnetic sensitivity (EMS), or EMS disabled, electromagnetic sensitivity ((ES), radiation poisoning or microwave radiation sickness. For purposes of this paper, we will use the U. S. Access Board designation of EMS disability going back to 2002.<sup>9</sup> Common EMS symptoms include sleep disturbances, chronic fatigue, chronic pain, poor short-term memory, difficulty concentrating (e.g., “brain fog”), mood disturbances (depression/ anxiety), skin problems, dizziness, loss of appetite, heart palpitations, tremors, vision problems, tinnitus, nose bleeds, asthma, reproductive problems and headaches, to name a few.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2021/07/20/the-path-to-achieving-justice40/>

<sup>8</sup> Native Americans are properly also considered disadvantaged communities. The United Keetoowah Tribe brought suit against the FCC because of the FCC’s failure to conduct environmental review of 5G deployment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 2019 found that the FCC acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner in its rule for massive deployment of small cells, particularly with the planned 800,000 locations for 5G deployment in the U.S. To date, there has been no environmental review of 5G, and yet 5G is being deployed unabated.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Access Board, [Advancing Full Access & Inclusion for All](https://www.access-board.gov/research/building/indoor-environmental-quality/), “Indoor Environmental Quality Project,” <https://www.access-board.gov/research/building/indoor-environmental-quality/>.

<sup>10</sup> “Electrohypersensitivity as a Newly Identified and Characterized Neurologic Pathological Disorder” Int’l Journal of Molecular Sciences, <https://www.mdpi.com/1422-0067/21/6/1915>.

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EMS symptoms have been legally recognized as functional impairments. Sweden was the first country to recognize EMS as a functional impairment in 2002. EMS also became recognized: (a) in 2002 by the U.S. Access Board (the federal agency devoted to accessibility issues for people with disabilities),<sup>11</sup> (b) in 2007 by the Canadian Human Rights Commission,<sup>12</sup> and (c) in 2009 by the European Parliament.<sup>13</sup> Courts have awarded disability claims to people with ES in Australia,<sup>14</sup> France,<sup>15</sup> Spain,<sup>16</sup> United Kingdom,<sup>17</sup> and United States.<sup>18</sup>

Access, digital equity and digital inclusion are vitally important for those disabled or suffering from wireless radiation. The U.S. Access Board (which advises the Justice Department and other state and federal agencies under the Americans with Disabilities Act) notes that a U.S. National Institute of Building Sciences survey of a representative region found that 2-6% of the population are sensitive to electro-magnetic fields.<sup>19</sup> There are other sources showing the proliferation of EMF sensitivities and disabilities.<sup>20</sup>

A 2019 Bevington study,<sup>21</sup> analyzed the prevalence of EMF/EHS within the population:

0.65% Can't work  
1.5% Severe symptoms  
5% Moderate symptoms  
30% Mild symptoms

Based on a population of 332.4 million people in the U.S., the numbers are shockingly high:

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<sup>11</sup> Johansson O. Electrohypersensitivity: state-of-the-art of a functional impairment. *Electromagn Biol Med.* 2006;25(4):245-58. doi: 10.1080/15368370601044150. PMID: 17178584.

<sup>12</sup> Policy on Environmental Sensitivities, Canadian Human Rights Commission, 2007, Policy Reviewed 2014.

<sup>13</sup> Full recognition of electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) in Europe, European Parliament, 2009.

<sup>14</sup> 'Wi-fi allergies' issue flares up in Australia, iNews, <https://www.itnews.com.au/news/wi-fi-allergies-issue-flares-up-in-australia-356354>.

<sup>15</sup> A Woman Has Been Awarded Compensation For Being "Allergic to Wi-Fi", ScienceAlert, 31 August 2015, <https://www.sciencealert.com/a-woman-has-been-award-compensation-for-being-allergic-to-wi-fi>.

<sup>16</sup> Spain: High Court of Madrid Ruling Recognizes "Electrosensitivity" as Grounds for Total Permanent Disability, August 4, 2016, Maris, <https://www.elettrosensibili.it/2016/09/14/spain-high-court-of-madrid-ruling-recognizes-electrosensitivity-as-grounds-for-total-permanent-disability/>.

<sup>17</sup> Gadget 'allergy': French woman wins disability grant, August 27, 2013, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-34075146>

<sup>18</sup> JML Law Wins Appeal in 'Unprecedented' Disability Case Against LAUSD For Failure to Accommodate Teacher With Electroma, March 26, 2021, Bloomberg <https://www.bloomberg.com/press-releases/2021-03-26/jml-law-wins-appeal-in-unprecedented-disability-case-against-laugd-for-failure-to-accommodate-teacher-with-electroma>.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Access Board – Advancing Full Access & Inclusion for All - "Indoor Environmental Quality Project," <https://www.access-board.gov/research/building/indoor-environmental-quality/>.

<sup>20</sup> Electrohypersensitivity (EHS) Is An Environmentally-Induced Disorder That Requires Immediate Attention, Dr. Magda Havas, *J. Sci Discov* (2019), <http://www.e-discoverypublication.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/JSD18020-final.pdf>; Presentation by Karl Maret, M.D., M.Eng., Presentation, 1-17-20, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xilsy3mcjCY>; "The Bioinitiative Report," <https://bioinitiative.org/>.

<sup>21</sup> "The Prevalence of People with Restricted Access to Work in Manmade Electromagnetic Environments," *Journal of Environment and Health Science*, <https://mdsafetech.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/2018-prevalence-of-electromagnetic-sensitivity.pdf>.

Percentages	Number of U.S. EMF Sensitive/Disabled
Can't work – 0.65%	2.16 million
Severe symptom – 1.5%	4.99 million
Moderate symptoms – 5%	16.6 million
Mild symptoms – 30%	99.7 million

Vulnerable communities are significantly and negatively affected by wireless radiation. Many of the EMS disabled and EMS sensitive are already disadvantaged and/or indigent and the condition only makes things worse. The condition itself often turns even accomplished professionals into indigency. The EMS Disable and EMS sensitive are not able to live, work or visit in spaces or buildings where wireless equipment is deployed. They also cannot successfully participate in virtual remote settings using free wireless connectivity because wireless broadband is a barrier to them: their lives are placed in jeopardy with any exposure to wireless. Children are also a vulnerable community and there is documented research on the adverse effects of wireless radiation as it penetrates even more deeply into the skulls of children compared to adults.<sup>22</sup>

Access to work is critical for disadvantaged communities. The EMS disabled are most affected when they cannot work safely in environments containing wireless radiation inside a building, such as Wi-Fi, or wireless radiation coming from outside a building from nearby base station antennas.<sup>23</sup> This is not a disability that only affects the EMS disabled but given the estimated number of people with EMS symptoms in the U.S., it has the potential of adversely affecting America's workforce. EMS disability can be accommodated by creating wireless radiation free zones that employ only wired facilities in the work environment.

### **Brief History On the Disabled Community's Efforts to End Discrimination**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was a starting point, but the most significant express validation of and protection for the disabled was finally achieved in the U.S. with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The manner of its passage is noteworthy. Wheelchair-bound Americans took to the Capitol steps, left their wheelchairs behind and crawled up the Capitol steps. Included among them was an 8-year-old disabled girl. This demonstration by these "wheelchair warriors" was captured by the media and called the "Capitol Crawl," as "a physical demonstration of how inaccessible architecture impacts people with disabilities."<sup>24</sup> The ADA extended the prohibition against discrimination beyond federal contractors to employment, public services and accommodations.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> See, <https://ehtrust.org/research-on-childrens-vulnerability-to-cell-phone-radio-frequency-radiation/> and <https://ehtrust.org/science/scientific-imaging-cell-phone-wi-fi-radiation-exposures-human-body/>.

<sup>23</sup> "The Prevalence of People with Restricted Access to Work in Manmade Electromagnetic Environments," <https://mdsafetech.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/2018-prevalence-of-electromagnetic-sensitivity.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> History Series, "When the 'Capitol Crawl' Dramatized the Need for Americans with Disabilities Act," <https://www.history.com/news/americans-with-disabilities-act-1990-capitol-crawl>.

<sup>25</sup> International Brotherhood of Teamsters, "The Rehabilitation Acts of 1973 and 1974, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990," <https://teamster.org/rehabilitation-acts-1973-and-1974-and-american-disabilities-act-1990/>.

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EMS disability is as silent and invisible as the toxin that creates the disability in the first place. The 3% (mild) and 35% (moderate)<sup>26</sup> portion of the population (between 9,975,000 or 115,500,000 million Americans) suffering from EMS, however, cannot travel to Washington DC to potentially sit on the Capitol steps. RF is so pervasive any effort similar to the “Capitol Crawl” to raise awareness would put them at physical risk. These people have been silenced and rejected. They are isolated from play with other children, from study with fellow students, from advancement in the workforce and the financial means to support themselves in anything but subsidized housing. But even federally-subsidized housing is becoming inaccessible since those buildings appear to be a target for wireless tower leases because it is the path of least resistance in increasingly resistant communities.

### How EMS Disabled Communities Compare to Other Disabled Communities

The percentages of the EMS disabled are either comparable to or exceed the percentages of other disabled communities. The percentages of the population with electrosensitivity can range, internationally, from 1.5% to 13.3%. Also, based on Bevington’s 2019 study cited above, percentages in the U.S. can range from .65% to 30%, depending on symptom severity.

Many countries have documented a prevalence rate for electrosensitivity in several population-based studies of: 1.5% in Sweden (Hillert et al, 2002); 3.2% in California (Levallois, 2002); 5% in Switzerland (Huss, 2002); 9% in Germany (INFAS, 2006); 11% in the England (Hallberg & Oberfeld, 2006); 3.5% in Austria (Schröttner, 2008); and 13.3% in Taiwan (Tseng, 2011). The World Health Organization has noted that “approximately 10% of reported cases of EHS were considered severe.” (A similar term to EMS, EHS means electro-hyper-sensitivity.)

Other disabilities now widely recognized in the U.S. include intellectual and developmental disability and mobility disability. According to the Special Olympics, 1.9% of the U.S. population or about 6.5 million people in the U.S. have an intellectual and developmental disability The American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities notes that this disability can be caused by injury, disease, or a problem in the brain, severe head injury, stroke, neonatal complications, and may include Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), mobility disability (defined by the CDC as “serous difficulty walking or climbing stairs”) affects 13.7% of the population, or 45.2 million people in the U.S.

Location	Percentages of Electrosensitivity
Sweden	1.5%
California	3.2%
Austria	3.5%
England	11%
Switzerland	5%
Germany	9%
Taiwan	13.3%
United States	3.2% - 30%

<sup>26</sup> C4ST Referencing Havas 2007, <https://c4st.org/what-is-electrosensitivity/>.

United States	Percentages of Other Disabled People	Millions Of People
Intellectual & Developmental Disability	1.9%	6.5 mil
<b>Mobility</b> Disability	13.7%	45.2 mil

## The Settled Science from Industry, Independent Scientists and Experts, and the FCC and FDA On EMF Health Effects

### Industry's Settled Science:

In 2000, the ECOLOG Institute, a research organization founded in 1991 by scientists from the University Hannover, was commissioned by T-Mobile in Germany (parent company to T-Mobile in the U.S.), to study the risks of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) because of the rapidly expanding mobile telecommunications industry. The aim was to evaluate EMF risks and the need for implementing precautionary health protection. The results were twofold: (1) findings of adverse health impacts associated with exposure to EMFs and (2) strong precautions and warnings to significantly lower the power of the EMFs to which the public would be exposed.<sup>27</sup>

This 2000 ECOLOG Institute study was apparently never distributed nor translated into English until a copy was leaked almost a decade later to a nonprofit who commissioned its translation. Here are some of the findings:

1. **Cancer:** “[e]lectromagnetic fields with frequencies in the mobile telecommunications range do play a role in the development of cancer. This is particularly notable for tumours of the central nervous system, for which there is only the one epidemiological study so far, examining the actual use of mobile phones. The most striking result of this study was an obvious correlation between the side at which the phone was used and the side at which the tumour occurred.”
2. **Leukemia:** “Higher risks were also demonstrated for several forms of leukaemia.”
3. **Testicular Cancer:** “The epidemiological findings for testicular cancer also need to be interpreted in conjunction with the results of the studies of fertility problems occurring in relation to high frequency electromagnetic fields.
4. **Cellular Research & Cancer:** “The results of the studies for all stages of cancer development from the damage of the genetic material via the uninhibited proliferation of cells and debilitation of the immune system (see below) up to the manifestation of the illness prove effects at power flux densities of less than 1 W/m<sup>2</sup>. For some stages of cancer development, intensities of 0.1 W/m<sup>2</sup> or even less may suffice to trigger effects.”
5. **Debilitation of the Immune System:** “Damaging effects on the immune system which can aid the development of illnesses were demonstrated in animal experiments at power flux densities of 1 W/m<sup>2</sup> (mouse, exposure duration 6 days, 3 hours per day, SAR (mouse) 0.14W/kg). In in vitro

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<sup>27</sup> Mobile Telecommunications and Health/Review of the current scientific research, ECOLOG Institut, Hannover, April 2000, available at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rd2c900GURf9YYQY-L2MHAFDYGIeT2R1tyMZYQhZTEA/edit>.

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experiments on lymphocytes, defects of the genetic material were demonstrated at power flux densities of circa  $10 \text{ W/m}^2$ . The presence of stress hormones, which when permanent can debilitate the immune system, was found to be increased in human experiments from power flux densities of  $0.2 \text{ W/m}^2$ . In animal experiments (rat) a similar effect was observed at a Specific Absorption Rate of circa  $0.2 \text{ W/kg}$ .”

6. **Influences on the Central Nervous System and Cognitive Function:** “Effects of high frequency electromagnetic fields on the central nervous system are proven for intensities well below the current guidelines. Measurable physiological changes have been demonstrated for intensities from  $0.5 \text{ W/m}^2$ . Impairments of cognitive functions are proven for animals from  $2 \text{ W/m}^2$ .”
7. **Electrosensitivity or Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity:** The sensitivity manifests in a variety of symptoms including: nervous symptoms such as sleep disturbances, headaches, exhaustion, lack of concentration, irritability, anxiety, stress, cardiovascular complaints, disruptions of hormones and metabolism, skin complaints. The composition and strength of the complaints varies enormously in different individuals. The correlation of the complaints with electromagnetic exposures and other environmental influences seems to vary strongly not only between affected persons but also in time, a fact that has so far impeded the conclusive scientific proof of a cause-effect relationship in provocation studies. The present results of scientific studies are often not conclusive and partly contradictory. On the other hand, however, there is a wealth of data.

“On the basis of current knowledge it is impossible to estimate the risk of electrosensitive reactions or to make recommendations for guidelines designed to avoid such a risk for the general population, ***which is composed of sensitive and non-sensitive persons***”. [Emphasis added]

The ECOLOG Institute then went on to emphasize the importance of developing “a strategy for the research of the electrosensitivity phenomenon and its incidence, ***which would acknowledge the failure of traditional scientific methods to address the problem and allow the inclusion of the data available from the self-help groups and associations of the affected.***” [Emphasis added]. The ECOLOG study recommended that when the risk is impossible to estimate, precautionary health measures must be implemented:

- “If a security factor of 10 is applied to this value, as it is applied by ICNIRP and appears appropriate given the current knowledge, the precautionary limit should be  $0.01 \text{ W/m}^2$ . This should be rigorously adhered to by all base stations near sensitive places such as residential areas, schools, nurseries, playgrounds, hospitals and all other places at which humans are present for longer than 4 hours.”

### **Exposures of Mobile Phone Users**

- “Given the state of technology now and in the foreseeable future, it is currently technically impossible to apply the recommended maximum value for mobile base stations also to the use of mobile phones. However, a lowering of the guidelines to a maximum of  $0.5 \text{ W/m}^2$  should urgently be considered.”
- “A particular problem in this exposure group is posed by children and adolescents, not only because their organism is still developing and therefore particularly susceptible, but also because many adolescents have come to be the most regular users of mobile phones.”
- “Advertising towards this population group should be banned. Furthermore, particular efforts should be made to lower the exposures during calls. It would be recommendable to conduct



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(covert) advertising campaigns propagating the use of headsets. It would also be important to develop communications and advertising aiming at minimising the exposures created by carrying mobile phones in standby mode on the body.”

In direct conflict with these findings and warnings, 22 years later, T-Mobile (U.S.) states on its website under “**Radio Frequency Safety:**”<sup>28</sup> Wireless phones emit low levels of radio-frequency (RF) energy during use. **Based on scientific data currently available, T-Mobile has not determined that RF energy from wireless phones causes health risks.** Nonetheless, we want our customers to be informed as the wireless industry and government agencies continue to monitor the ongoing scientific research on this important subject. [Emphasis added]

T-Mobile has chosen to not just ignore, but went on to purposefully misrepresent, the study results it commissioned.

There may be no better example of misinformation on the Internet that disadvantages the disabled, though not specifically data run through algorithms. Rather, this is an omission of the facts and findings of the ECOLOG Institute. The recommendations were replete with warnings to bring the levels of radiation down, particularly in vulnerable locations “residential areas, schools, nurseries, playgrounds, hospitals and all other places at which humans are present for longer than 4 hours.”

This misinformation has been perpetuated by global health organizations and government agencies: FCC, FDA and National Cancer Institute (NCI).<sup>29</sup> A fourth website is the World Health Organization (WHO) which also has a similar bias (due to conflicts of interests since a number of ICNIRP members are also members of the WHO EMF Project).<sup>30</sup> There appears to be no representation of the EMS disabled population in these institutions.

The damage this misinformation has caused the health and well-being of populations globally and particularly, the invisible and silenced EMS disability population, is unknown. But the outcome is easy to see. Many have been silenced, in very large part, because their friends, family members, physicians and local, state and federal government leaders get their information from the same four biased websites.

### **Facts and Statements by U.S. Preeminent Scientists and Experts In the Area of RFR Research**

As shown by the following facts and statements by the United States’ preeminent scientists and experts in the area of wireless RFR research, it is well established that wireless radiation exposure produces or has the recognized potential of producing biological effects.

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<sup>28</sup> “Radio frequency safety,” <https://www.t-mobile.com/responsibility/consumer-info/safety/radio-frequency-safety>.

<sup>29</sup> The FCC states that “currently no scientific evidence establishes a causal link between wireless device use and cancer or other illnesses.”

The FDA, states that, based on current data, it “believes that the weight of scientific evidence does not show an association between exposure to radiofrequency from cell phones and adverse health outcomes.”

The National Cancer Institute states that “although there have been some concerns that radiofrequency energy from cell phones held closely to the head may affect the brain and other tissues, to date there is no evidence from studies of cells, animals, or humans that radiofrequency energy can cause cancer.”

<sup>30</sup> The World Health Organization states that “to date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use,” despite a “large number of studies [that] have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk.”

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1. In 2011, the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified wireless radiation as a Group 2B possible carcinogen.<sup>31</sup> This conclusion was based upon an increased risk of malignant brain cancer (glioma) identified in those who used cell phones for over 10 years for an average of 30 minutes per day.

Anthony B. Miller, M.D., Senior Epidemiologist, IARC, states in a 2018 updated assessment to the 2011 IARC classification of wireless radiofrequency radiation (RFR), "***When considered with recent animal experimental evidence, the recent epidemiological studies strengthen and support the conclusion that RFR should be categorized as carcinogenic to humans (IARC Group 1).***"<sup>32</sup>

2. "Since 2011, the scientific evidence linking wireless to cancer has significantly increased and today several published reviews conclude that the current body of evidence indicates cell phone radiation is proven Group 1 human carcinogen (Miller et al 2018, Peleg et al 2018 Carlberg and Hardell 2017, Belpomme et al 2018)." <sup>33</sup>

3. Christopher J. Portier, Ph.D., former director of the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a scientific advisor for the WHO, reviewed the most recent body of scientific research and literature to look at the feasibility of RFR causing specific brain tumors in humans and concluded in March, 2021:

- "***Given the human, animal and experimental evidence, I assert that, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, the probability that RF exposure causes gliomas and neuromas is high.***"

<sup>34</sup>

4. In 2021, the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *EHT et al v. FCC* ruled that the FCC's 2019 decision to maintain their 26-year-old thermal-based exposure "safety" guidelines demonstrated that the FCC was acting in an "***arbitrary and capricious***" manner "***in its complete failure to respond to comments concerning environmental harm caused by RF radiation***" below the current FCC limits.<sup>35</sup>

The Court further ruled that, "***The factual premise—the non-existence of non-thermal biological effects—underlying the current RF guidelines may no longer be accurate.***" The Court pointed out that the FCC had ignored scientific evidence documenting biological harm at non-thermal levels (i.e., at levels hundreds and even thousands of times below the current FCC wireless exposure "safety" guidelines). Indeed, 11,000 pages of scientific studies of biological hazards from RFR and hundreds of

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<sup>31</sup> [https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208\\_E.pdf](https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208_E.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935118303475>

<sup>33</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/science/whoiacr-position-on-wireless-and-health/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.saferemr.com/2021/03/expert-report-by-former-us-government.html?m=1>

<sup>35</sup> *Env'tl. Health Tr., et al. v. FCC*, 9 F.4th 893 (D.C. Cir. 2021). For overview of the case, see generally <https://ehtrust.org/in-historic-decision-federal-court-finds-fcc-failed-to-explain-why-it-ignored-scientific-evidence-showing-harm-from-wireless-radiation/>.



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personal accounts of injuries from RFR were in the FCC docket. The Court of Appeals admonished the FCC that it could not ignore all this scientific evidence.

5. Ronald Melnick, Ph.D., retired NIEHS senior toxicologist who won the American Public Health Association's 2007 David P. Rall Award for public health advocacy states:

***"I strongly feel health and regulatory agencies should promote policies that reduce cell phone radiation exposure, especially for children and pregnant women. The agencies in the U.S. say, "if you are concerned" rather than "we are concerned." Agencies should be clear and straightforward educating the public on "here is what you should do."***

***"The risk can be greater for children than adults due to the increased penetration of the radiation within brains of children and the fact that the developing nervous system is more susceptible to tissue damaging agents."***<sup>36</sup>

6. The American Academy of Pediatrics, a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists, stated in a letter to the FCC on July 12, 2012:

***"Children ... are not little adults and are disproportionately impacted by all environmental exposures, including cell phone radiation. In fact, according to IARC, when used by children, the average RF energy deposition is two times higher in the brain and 10 times higher in the bone marrow of the skull, compared with mobile phone use by adults."***<sup>37</sup>

7. New Hampshire formed a State Commission to examine whether wireless radiation is harmful to human health. The majority of that New Hampshire State Commission came to the conclusion that exposure to wireless radiation is harmful to human health and the environment. The commission was convened through bipartisan legislation<sup>38</sup> that was signed by the governor. Commission membership included unbiased experts in fields relating to health and radiation exposure, and they issued their Final Report in November 2020.<sup>39</sup> A quote from that report (taken from Recommendation 1) provides the Commission findings with regards to the effectiveness of FCC regulations:

***"The majority of the Commission believes that the FCC has not exercised due diligence in its mission to manage the electromagnetic environment by not setting exposure limits that protect against health effects. They have failed to support technical means and investigations aimed at reducing human exposures to electromagnetic radiation (EMR) in telecommunications systems and optimize wireless modulations to reduce biological and health impacts."***

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<sup>36</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSx\\_yDzxvM8&t=2295s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSx_yDzxvM8&t=2295s)

<sup>37</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-letter-to-the-FCC-July-12-2012.pdf>; see also images of cell phone usage by children and the penetration of wireless radiation into the brain <https://ehtrust.org/research-on-childrens-vulnerability-to-cell-phone-radio-frequency-radiation/>.

<sup>38</sup> <https://legiscan.com/NH/text/HB522/2019>.

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/1474/reports/5G%20final%20report.pdf>.

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8. Experts from the technology industry have also spoken out about the hazards of wireless radiation, e.g.: Frank Clegg, former President of Microsoft Canada,<sup>40</sup> and Jeromy Johnson, who holds an advanced degree in Civil Engineering and worked in Silicon Valley's financial industry for over 15 years<sup>41</sup> and who was personally impacted by wireless radiation.
9. Physicians, scientists and engineers have documented the adverse effects of wireless radiation. See, e.g. the statements of 57 physicians, 19 scientists and an engineer in a smart meters case brought in Pennsylvania's Supreme Court, and supported by an amicus brief in 2021 of 80 organizations, based on the adverse effects of wireless radiation.<sup>42</sup>
10. EMF researchers and physicians have authored more than 20 position papers and resolutions cautioning about EMF health risks (e.g. in 2016, 220 scientists from 42 countries signed an International Appeal directed to the United Nations and the WHO, calling for protection from non-ionizing EMF exposure).<sup>43</sup>
11. The European Parliament has recognized "The European Parliament ... calls on Member States to follow the example of Sweden and to recognise persons that suffer from electrohypersensitivity as being disabled so as to grant them adequate protection as well as equal opportunities."<sup>44</sup>

You can also hear directly from grassroots communities of the health problems that they have been experiencing from RFR radiation. An example is in Pittsfield, MA where long-time residents and their children suffered from serious physical ailments, including vomiting in their beds, after the installation of a wireless cell tower near their homes, and from which they had to evacuate.<sup>45</sup> The Pittsfield, MA Board of Health recently issued an emergency order to a telecommunications carrier to show cause why a cease and desist order should not be issued against the carrier to turn off a cell tower based on express findings of

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4TdY344Now>.

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0NEaPTu9oI>.

<sup>42</sup> *Povacz v. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission*, <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/Brief-and-Addendum-Submitted-9-14.pdf>, starting on p.64; for an overview of the case, see <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/chd-amicus-brief-supreme-court-pennsylvania-reject-smart-meters-mandate/>.

<sup>43</sup> EUROPAEM EMF Guideline 2016 for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of EMF-related health problems and illnesses, Belyaev et al, *Rev Environ Health* 2016, DOI 10.1515/reveh-2016-0011, Received March 16, 2016; accepted May 29, 201, available at <https://www.diagnose-funk.org/download.php?field=filename&id=363&class=DownloadItem>.

<sup>44</sup> "Digitalization Challenges for Europe," <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/files/ge-01-19-295-en-n.pdf>; "European Parliament, Health Impact of 5G," <https://ehtrust.org/the-european-parliament-panel-health-impact-of-5g/>; European Parliament – Policy Recommendations On Cell Phones, Wireless Radiation & Health, May 10, 2017, <https://ehtrust.org/european-parliament-policy-recommendations-cell-phones-wireless-radiation-health/>; European Parliament resolution on the health problems associated with electromagnetic fields (2008/2211), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-6-2009-0216\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-6-2009-0216_EN.html).

<sup>45</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/statement-by-courtney-gilardi-after-pittsfield-board-of-health-votes-to-send-cess-and-desist-order-for-verizon-cell-tower/>.

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injuries sustained by residents as a result of the cell tower.<sup>46</sup> There have been other reports of health effects from cell towers.<sup>47</sup>

**Federal Communications Commission:** The FCC admitted in 2019 that at least some RFRs can cause instantaneous non-thermal adverse effects with radio-frequency radiation (RFR) frequencies ranging between 3 KHz and 10 MHz.<sup>48</sup> However, the FCC averages exposure levels over 30 minutes, which completely obscures the effects of the pulsating nature of RFR and does not account for 24/7 exposure to RFR or its constant pulsations by the population.

### **Food and Drug Administration:**

Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., former Director of the U.S. NIEHS and former Director of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) spanning across the Department of Health and Human Services organizations which involves NIH, FDA and CDC, has stated:<sup>49</sup>

- ***“Effects from [wireless] radiofrequency radiation (RFR) such as genetic toxicity, immunotoxicity, oxidative stress, changes in gene and protein expression, changes in cell differentiation and proliferation, and increased permeability of the blood brain barrier were reported in these [scientific] publications.” (pg. 8).***
- ***“The phase I [NTP] studies established that non-thermal levels (<1°C or no detectible change in temperature) of RFR exposure had toxicological implications in biological systems.” (pg. 9).***
- ***“The NTP found and published evidence of DNA damage after only 90 days of exposure.” (pg. 9).***
- ***“Overall, the NTP findings demonstrate the potential for RFR to cause cancer in humans. The independent peer review of the entire proceedings carried out by toxicologists, pathologists and statisticians independent of the NTP staff conducted March 26-28, 2018, concluded that there was ‘clear evidence of cancer,’...exposure to RFR is associated with an increase in DNA damage.” (pg. 11).***

**NOTE:** NTP refers to the National Toxicology Program.<sup>50</sup> Since completion of the \$30 million NTP study (originally sponsored by the FDA to research possible biological effects of RFR), the results have been replicated by the Ramazzini Institute<sup>51</sup> in another study using exposures below the FCC thermal thresholds<sup>52</sup> (simulating emissions from cellular base stations and wireless transmitters).

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<sup>46</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Pittsfield-Health-Board-Cell-Tower-Order-to-Verizon-April-11-2022-FINAL-REDACTED.pdf>; see also, <https://ehtrust.org/the-first-cease-and-desist-order-against-verizon-cell-tower-to-be-sent-on-friday-by-by-board-of-health-pittsfield-ma/>.

<sup>47</sup> Cell Tower Health Effects <https://www.saferemr.com/2015/04/cell-tower-health-effects.html>, Center for Family and Community Health, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley.

<sup>48</sup> *Proposed Changes in the Commission’s Rule Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields*, 34 FCC Rcd 11687, 11743-11745, ¶¶122- 124 & nn. 322-335 (2019). It also noted that these harms occur instantaneously. The FCC currently averages exposure levels over 30 minutes, which completely obscures the acknowledged instantaneous response.

<sup>49</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/20-1025-Amicus-Brief-Joe-Sandri.pdf>.

<sup>50</sup> <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/whatwestudy/topics/cellphones/index.html>.

<sup>51</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29530389/>.

<sup>52</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/worlds-largest-animal-study-on-cell-tower-radiation-confirms-cancer-link/>.

## Federal Agencies Creating Barriers For Relief For The EMS Disabled

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued guidance to its agency not to recognize any EMS claims.<sup>53</sup> This has created bias within the agency and other agencies:

“The Department of Energy and Department of Justice have also received numerous complaints dealing with these issues and have informed HUD that they will not open investigations under Section 504 based on these allegations. Based on advice from HUD’s Office of General Counsel, FHEO will not accept as jurisdictional allegations dealing with Smart Meters, RF and/or EMF issues, and any complaints already accepted will be closed... HUD reimburses only for cases that are jurisdictional under the federal Fair Housing Act. Where such complaints are accepted by a FHAP, they will not be accepted by HUD for payment.”<sup>54</sup>

The FCC has continued, unabated, to deploy 5G and other wireless technologies, despite the known dangers of wireless radiation and despite recent court rulings against the FCC. The FCC’s claim of pre-emption on radiofrequency emissions has fueled the unfettered deployment of wireless infrastructure, the exacerbation of adverse health impacts on the EMS disabled, and the continued bias against the EMS disabled.

### ***Would you board a plane whose safety guidelines have not been updated since 1996?***

- In 2019, the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled against the FCC’s failure to engage in environmental review of small cell deployment. To date, there has been no environmental review of small cells in general or 5G in particular, yet 5G is being deployed unabated. There has been no safety testing of 5G, as Senator Blumenthal established during Senate testimony by telecommunications executives in 2019.<sup>55</sup>  
The FCC has declined to update its wireless “safety” emission guidelines since 1996, and in 2019 decided that the guidelines did not need to be updated.
- The FCC received 11,000 pages of scientific studies of proven wireless harms and hundreds of people reporting their injuries from wireless radiation. The FCC ignored all of those submissions.
- After the FCC ignored those submissions, in August 2021, the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit again ruled against the FCC and remanded its wireless emission guidelines back to the FCC for reconsideration. It called out the FCC for “its complete failure to respond to comments concerning environmental harm caused by” wireless radiation below the current FCC guidelines. The FCC has so far ignored the Court’s remand order.
- Despite these two court decisions, the FCC’s Technical Advisory Council (TAC) continues to discuss the unfettered deployment of wireless technologies. Indeed, there is a scheduled June 9, 2022 meeting of TAC to discuss “6G, artificial intelligence, advanced spectrum sharing technologies, and emerging wireless technologies, including new tools to restore Internet access during shutdowns

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<sup>53</sup> Maine Human Rights Commission, April 25, 2017.

<sup>54</sup> Letter addressed to “Fair Housing Enforcement Partners” by Joseph A. Pelletier, Director, Fair Housing Assistance Program, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; obtained from Maine Human Rights Commission, 2017.

<sup>55</sup> <https://mdsafetech.org/2019/02/13/no-research-on-5g-safety-senator-blumenthal-question-answered/>.

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and other disruptions." Those serving on TAC are mostly from the telecommunications industry. There is no representation for the EMS disabled or for any of the grassroots organizations or non-profits representing the interests of the EMS disabled.

The New Hampshire Commission examining EMF health effects extended an invitation to provide comment or participate. It went unanswered. The New Hampshire Commission concluded.

***"The FCC, using the science that they receive from other agencies and scientific/engineering associations, has set the allowable power intensity that can be emitted from these antennae. Testimony shows these limits are set well above many other industrialized nations. There are concerns by many Washington, DC watchers that the FCC is a captive agency whose Commission members come from the industry they are overseeing."***

It was recently announced that the FCC is considering deploying Wi-Fi in school buses.<sup>56</sup> No accommodation is being contemplated for EMS disabled children who will have no other safe school transportation alternative.

## Energy Consumption and Pollution from Wireless Infrastructure and Devices

Another objective of the Justice40 Initiative is clean energy. Wireless is not clean energy.

What is emitted from wireless infrastructure, cell towers and cell phones is referred to as wireless radio-frequency radiation (RFR), electro-magnetic radiation (EMR), electro-magnetic fields (EMF), microwave radiation or wireless radiation. "ElectroSmog refers to all man-made electromagnetic radiation created and present in our surrounding environment."<sup>57</sup>

The environmental footprint of wireless infrastructure contributes more to global warming than it does in preventing it.<sup>58</sup> Wireless is not so "green."<sup>59</sup> As far back as 2013, it was predicted that the "wireless cloud" would produce "an increase in carbon footprint from 6 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2012 to up to 30 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2015, the equivalent of adding 4.9 million cars to the roads," with up to 90% of this consumption "attributable to wireless access network technologies ..."<sup>60</sup> More recently, energy consumption for wireless infrastructure has been reported at ten times that of fiber optics (with 5G requiring 2 to 3.5 times the energy needed for 4G towers).<sup>61</sup> Energy consumption from 5G "is expected to increase 61x between

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<sup>56</sup> "FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel Pushes for E-Rate Funding of School Bus Wi-Fi," May 11, 2022, <https://stnonline.com/news/fcc-chairwoman-rosenworcel-pushes-for-e-rate-funding-of-school-bus-wi-fi/>.

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.emfrf.com/electrosmog/>.

<sup>58</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/5G-and-Climate-Change-Flyer-EHT.pdf>.

<sup>59</sup> Environmental Health Trust, "5G is Not So Green ..." <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Studies-Confirm-5G-4G-Will-Increase-Radiation-Exposure.html?soid=1116515520935&aid=2ptEVCn03-U>.

<sup>60</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/5G-and-Climate-Change-Flyer-EHT.pdf>.

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.emfacts.com/2020/09/5g-base-stations-use-up-to-three-and-a-half-times-more-energy-than-4g-infrastructure/>.

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2020 to 2030 due to the energy demands of powerful network elements like massive MIMO<sup>62</sup> and edge servers [and] the proliferation of 5G cell sites ...”<sup>63</sup>

In terms of pollution, even the telecommunications industry has referred to wireless as a pollutant in their product protection plans for which they disclaim liability for personal injury. For example, an industry brochure for consumers for cell phone insurance protection states:

***"Pollutants means any ... gaseous, or thermal irritant or contaminant including ... artificially produced electric fields, magnetic field, electromagnetic field, sound waves, microwaves and all artificially produced ionizing or non-ionizing radiation ..."***<sup>64</sup>

Similar definitions for pollution are in the product protection plans for other telecommunications companies.<sup>65</sup>

Two of the largest insurance companies in the world (i.e., Lloyd’s of London and Swiss Re) have declined to insure telecom companies for any liability for personal injury that results from RFR exposures.<sup>66, 67, 68</sup> Insurance companies, reviewing potential RFR injuries to the public from a risk analysis perspective, have assessed RFR as “high” risk and is, therefore, excluded from coverage as a general matter. The insurance industry clearly acknowledges the high potential of claims of RFR injuries from the public arising from RFR exposure.

Minority and rural communities have historically been affected by environmental hazards. Those mistakes should not be amplified by their exposure to wireless RFR in close proximity to their homes, schools and businesses. Fiber optics to the premises (FTTP) is the superior choice for these communities, where digital inclusion and environmental equity are needed to bridge the digital divide. Fiber optics has “[l]ower energy consumption, reduced waste and sustainable architecture, characteristics that make fiber infrastructure an environmentally advantageous choice.”<sup>69</sup> “Fiber has a minimal ecological impact, reduces waste, consumes very little energy and helps decrease greenhouse gas emissions.”<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> MIMO means Multiple-Input Multiple-Output and “is a wireless technology that uses multiple transmitters and receivers to transfer more data at the same time” by combining “data streams arriving from different paths” in contrast to Single-Input Single-Output (SISO) technology which “can only send or receive one spatial stream at a time.” See, <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/support/articles/000005714/wireless/legacy-intel-wireless-products.html>.

<sup>63</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/report-5g-to-increase-energy-consumption-by-61-times/>.

<sup>64</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/device-protection-brochure-nationwide.pdf>.

<sup>65</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/key-issues/electromagnetic-field-insurance-policy-exclusions/>; , <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/ATT-Multi-Device-Protection-Pack-Insurance.pdf>, <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Sprint-Insurance-Terms-and-Conditions-Downloaded-2019.pdf>.

<sup>66</sup> <https://5gtechnologynews.com/insurance-companies-can-refuse-claims-related-to-electromagnetic-radiation-illnesses/>.

<sup>67</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Swiss-Re-SONAR-Publication-2019-excerpt-1.pdf>, pg. 29.

<sup>68</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/key-issues/reports-white-papers-insurance-industry>.

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.cablinginstall.com/cable/fiber/article/16465844/how-fiber-can-help-make-your-network-greener>.

<sup>70</sup> Fiber Optic Broadband, A Greener Internet Solution, <https://www.otelco.com/a-greener-internet-solution/>.



## **The Need to Accommodate Disadvantaged Communities of EMS Disabled, Metrics and Guidelines**

The EMS disabled is a disadvantaged community that requires affirmance and accommodation. The Fair Housing Act (“FHA”)<sup>71</sup> and Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”)<sup>72</sup> require accommodations relating to a “physical or mental impairment” that “substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.” See, e.g., 42 U.S.C. §12102(1)(A) and 28 C.F.R. §36.105.

Residents in disadvantaged communities must be given the right to be heard and to choose the method of broadband access (wired or wireless), by providing them with sufficient notice and the power to consent to wired or wireless access, particularly given the proven hazardous nature of wireless technology. Appropriate accommodation must be made for those who are disabled or suffering from wireless radiation. Residents should have veto power over any wireless infrastructure in their neighborhoods or at least those right outside their homes or bedrooms, especially given that insurance companies will not insure for any injuries from wireless radiation.

The perspective of those EMS disabled as stakeholders who are suffering or disabled from wireless radiation is particularly important in establishing digital equity and inclusion, and the EMS disabled should be given a voice. This would ensure that those otherwise suffering or disabled from wireless radiation are given accommodation by (1) being given access to fiber, rather than wireless, to access the Internet for medical attention, education and other uses; (2) being given equal access as everyone else to the Internet and (3) ensuring a far enough distance from wireless technology with minimum setbacks of 500 meters, or any greater amount of setback or relocation of wireless technology that the disabled require to live safely within their homes.

Making accommodation for the EMS disabled is a necessity. To ensure that the EMS disabled are included in digital equity and digital inclusion, the EMS disabled need access to broadband; otherwise, not having these minimal accommodations would totally exclude this EMS disabled population from having public access to the Internet in their home and in anchor institutions. More specific guidelines are delineated by the [Building Biologists](#), an organization whose mission is to help create healthy homes, schools, and workplaces free of toxic hazards, including those posed by electromagnetic radiation.<sup>73</sup>

### **Accommodation in Public Anchor Institutions**

Accommodation for the EMS disabled should be made in public anchor institutions, such as libraries, schools and medical facilities, so that a portion of each such institution would not expose the EMS disabled to wireless radio frequency radiation. Wi-Fi/wireless free zones, e.g., areas in a building that do not have Wi-Fi or other wireless connectivity and are free of any wireless frequency of any kind, including, but not limited to, that generated by cell phone devices or any other type of wireless transmitting or receiving devices such as smart meters. This zone would be designed to accommodate broadband and telecommunications access for the EMS disabled and to provide safe access to all anchor institutions that they use.

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<sup>71</sup> 42 U.S.C. §3601, et seq.

<sup>72</sup> 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.

<sup>73</sup> <https://buildingbiologyinstitute.org/>.

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Here are some examples of accommodations needed for the EMS disabled. The EMS disabled need landline corded phones in community anchor institutions (e.g., libraries, schools, medical facilities) and family dwellings. They cannot use or be dependent on cell phones. A portion of each community anchor institution should have accommodation for the EMS disabled so as not to expose them to wireless frequency radiation.

Accommodation for EMS disabled would include creating a Wi-Fi/[wireless free zone](#), which would include a way to terminate all wireless transmitting signals originating from within the zone and attenuate all wireless receiving signals penetrating into the zone. Transmitting signals can be terminated with a combination of a hard wire shut-off, permanent Wi-Fi free software deactivation that does not reset itself or just by using FTTP and cabled modems / routers / computer / telecommunications equipment. Received signals can be lowered with a combination of RF attenuation building materials, equipment and products that reduce the RFR penetrating into the zone. The objective is to create an “as low as reasonably achievable” level of RFR for receiving signals.

All telecommunications access should be provided by telecommunications equipment (e.g., modems or routers) connected only by copper wire, cable or fiber optics. Any connectors for fiber optics and other hard-wired alternatives must be secured and ensure a leak-free connection. The zone would have a means to terminate all wireless transmitting signals originating from within the zone and attenuate all wireless receiving signals penetrating into the zone. Transmitting signals can be terminated with a combination of a hard wire shut-off, permanent Wi-Fi free software deactivation that does not reset itself. Alternatively, telecommunications equipment could simply be permanently connected to fiber optics or cable for an even faster, more secure and healthier experience. Received signals can be lowered with a combination of radio frequency attenuation building materials, equipment and products that reduce the radio frequency penetrating into the zone. The objective is to create an “as low as reasonably achievable” level of radio frequency receiving signals.

The zone could also be “flexible,” by equipping it with an easily accessible and visible “off” switch and robust software that does not permit wireless signals and prohibits these software settings from being automatically overridden or reset. Those needing a connection for their cell phones would simply turn off their Wi-Fi and cellular connections and plug into the hardwired connections that would be made available to them at various locations within the zone, without any attenuation in service and with the possible advantage of even faster and more reliable service without expense to their health.

In order for the EMS disabled to reach these zones, any wireless frequency within these institutions would be easily attenuated by simply placing a “Signal Tamer”<sup>74</sup> over the wireless telecommunications equipment which significantly reduces the amount of wireless frequency emitting from that equipment without affecting wireless connectivity.

Since the EMS disabled cannot use cell phones, they would need landline corded phones in these public anchor institutions. For example, when an EMS disabled person would otherwise be required to notify a medical facility by cell phone that they are arriving for their appointment, an accommodation would simply be a buzzer at the door to announce their arrival.

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<sup>74</sup> See a sample Signal Tamer on Amazon, with photos of how it greatly reduces wireless frequencies while the router continues to work; [https://www.amazon.com/Microwave-Shielding-Headnet-Radiation-Exposure/dp/B07P3J6J9C/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?crd=133JJDZDT48I9&keywords=signal+tamer+router+shield&qid=1652294074&sprefix=signal+tamer%2Caps%2C183&sr=8-3](https://www.amazon.com/Microwave-Shielding-Headnet-Radiation-Exposure/dp/B07P3J6J9C/ref=sr_1_3?crd=133JJDZDT48I9&keywords=signal+tamer+router+shield&qid=1652294074&sprefix=signal+tamer%2Caps%2C183&sr=8-3).



### **Accommodation in Home Dwellings**

“A man’s [or woman’s] home is his [her] castle.” This has been a maxim for centuries and is no less relevant here. Since the proliferation of wireless infrastructure, wireless frequencies have been intruding into people’s homes, without their consent, and harming them. If frequencies were not invisible, the intrusion and harm would rise to the level of the common law crime of assault and battery. Accommodation is required to ensure that those already harmed from wireless frequencies are protected from any further intrusion and harm. Indeed, these frequencies are life threatening for the EMS disabled.<sup>75</sup>

To that end, the EMS disabled require hard wire, either fiber optics, cable or copper wire, to the premises and hard wire, either fiber optics, cable or copper wire, through the premises. The EMS disabled require prior notice of planned nearby facilities, their consent to the placement and there must be a minimum setback of at least 500 meters so that the EMS disabled can live safely within their homes.

In addition, the EMS disabled require access to medical assistance and emergency services in case of any acts of God, access to which, incidentally, may also become interrupted with wireless infrastructure. The EMS disabled should have equal access to broadband -- a necessary service -- in a manner that does not injure them and that does not otherwise put them in harm’s way. They cannot adopt a technology that is injuring them, especially when wireless technology is intruding into their homes from the outside or from within their own homes.

### **Accommodation for Emergencies**

The EMS disabled require hardwired connections in the event of any emergency or natural disaster, such as heavy weather conditions or a tornado. An example of how fiber optics made possible the restoration of service during an emergency is in Chattanooga, TN. In November 2012, a tornado ripped through Chattanooga. Because of the fiber optics installation, the system was able to either prevent or automatically restore service from 23,000 customer outages.<sup>76</sup> The EMS disabled require access to services in such emergencies.

### **Digital discrimination cannot be remedied without digital literacy.**

Digital literacy requires educating the public, businesses, schools, states, municipalities about the important of hardwired connections. Educational materials along with links to experts in this area (such as the [Building Biology Institute](#)) can provide crucial information on how to hardwire equipment, along with the health, environmental, economic, quality of communications, and security reasons for doing so. The digital literacy program should include, e.g., (1) guidance on the safe use of technology at home, school, work, medical facilities, etc;<sup>77</sup> (2) how to use ethernet cords, adaptors for every device in which to

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<sup>75</sup> See the various situations of the EMS disabled provided in this paper.

<sup>76</sup> “Smart Grid Helps Keep Lights Burning,” May 19, 2017 Editorial, Hamilton County Herald, <https://www.hamiltoncountyherald.com/Story.aspx?id=8646&date=5%2F19%2F2017>.

<sup>77</sup> Protecting Babies from EMF <https://ehtrust.org/> and <https://ehtrust.org/?s=baby+safe>; How to Hard-Wire Schools (see, <https://www.techsafeschools.org/>; "Hardwire Options | TechSafe Schools" <https://www.techsafeschools.org/hardwire-options>).

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plug the ethernet cords;<sup>78</sup> (3) how to use a “Signal Tamer” or its equivalent, so as not to cause electrosmog pollution in other people’s spaces (similar to not polluting people’s spaces with second-hand smoke); (4) how distance from any wireless device or infrastructure is their friend; (5) how to protect babies from wireless frequency radiation and (6) how to hard-wire schools so as not to expose children to wireless frequency radiation.

### Historical Context

There is precedent for creating “safe zones” for the disabled. Zones would be created to reduce crime by implementing new principles of housing construction to provide for greater public surveillance rather than constructing areas that were recessed where crimes could more easily occur. This is known as “defensible space” and the architect was Oscar Newman, Director of the Institute of Planning and Housing, New York University. He advised the Department of Justice on creating defensible space. Newman and his colleagues undertook a three-year study on the effects of the physical layout of residential environments on the criminal vulnerability of inhabitants. The project involved both statistical analyses and extensive modifications to the existing plant and grounds of housing projects to test the efficacy of hypotheses. Through the creation of “safe zones,” the security and safety of adjacent streets and neighborhoods benefit through a reduction in crime.

In Missouri a Travel Safe Zone (TSZ) has been implemented to improve highway safety by implementing more clearly defined roadway segments, particularly in areas where the number of fatal or disabling injury crashes exceeds a “predicted safety performance level for comparable roadways,” as stated in Missouri Revised Statutes 304.590.

As a temporary solution to homelessness, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the only federal agency tasked with preventing and ending homelessness, has coordinated with 19 federal agencies, state and local governments and the private sector to create “safe zones” or “sanctioned encampments.” The goal is to help people stay in a safer and more sanitary environment, without the risk of being arrested or legally cited. Sometimes these settings feature sheds or other structures or provide areas for people to stay in their cars or recreational vehicles. Others simply provide places for people to sleep in their own tents or on mats. Some communities have created these environments as a voluntary option for people that would otherwise live in unsafe situations.

The need for “safe zones” in the wireless-free context are being discussed with regularity among the EMS disabled community and those who attempt to provide services for them. On May 12, 2022, the National Council on Disability (NCD) took testimony, both written and oral, from the EMS disability community. NCD is an independent federal agency charged with advising the President, Congress and other federal agencies regarding policies, programs, practices, and procedures that affect people with disabilities.

### Present-Day Context

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<sup>78</sup> “How to Hardwire a Cell Phone to Ethernet Step by Step,” Environmental Health Trust <https://ehtrust.org/how-to-hardwire-a-cell-phone-to-ethernet-step-by-step/>; “You Can Hard Wire iPhone to the Internet With Ethernet Cable! – Tech Wellness,” <https://techwellness.com/blogs/expertise/hard-wire-connect-phone-tablet-laptop-internet/>; “EMF Medical Conference 2021 Talk: Reduce EMF in Your Home Office,” YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFFdfAsTks8>).

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To provide some context as to why such accommodations are important, here are just a few examples of people suffering from wireless radiation: a New York police lieutenant,<sup>79</sup> an 81-year old elderly woman who lived in New York,<sup>80</sup> both of whom are referenced in **Stories of the EMS Disabled** in this paper, as well as a Texas resident.<sup>81</sup> The police lieutenant, who was otherwise healthy before exposure to radiation from wireless transmitters placed in close range to his house, caused him to suffer heart arrhythmias and sleep deprivation. He was compelled to evacuate his own home to live elsewhere in a safer environment, while still shouldering the financial burden of a substantial mortgage on his original house.

The 81-year-old elderly woman, after wireless transmitters were placed on the rooftop of her apartment building directly over her ceiling, suffered from debilitating radiation related symptoms, including severe tinnitus, bilateral hearing loss, sleep deprivation, major headaches and persistent nausea and vomiting. She could not find refuge anywhere in her studio apartment, where she has lived for 44 years. In her own words, "It's brutal."

A Texas resident has been seeking accommodation, suffers from life-threatening EMS: swelling of vital organs (face, head and eyes), heart attack, stroke, rashes and loss of skin, extreme fatigue, internal bleeding and breathing problems.

There should be a metric to measure in EMS disabled communities, on the ground (1) the level of electrosmog generated, or that would be potentially generated, from wireless infrastructure (2) the amount of fiber optics deployed, and needed to deploy, to provide accommodation to the EMS disabled communities and (3) the extent of accommodation for those disadvantaged communities with injuries from wireless exposure. These metrics should be accessible and transparent to the public.

### **Adopting Tom Wheeler's "Fiber-First" Policy: Fiber Optics Broadband is a Necessity for Disadvantaged Communities and is the Best Solution to Bridge the Digital Divide**

Digital inclusion and digital equity are important for disadvantaged EMS disabled communities. ***The only way that the promise of diversity and digital equity and digital inclusion can come true for EMS disabled communities is to ensure wired connection to the home and at work and ensure they can achieve exposure avoidance - the only recognized treatment/lifestyle alternative.***

Tom Wheeler, former FCC Chair, advocates a "***fiber first***" policy as he testified in Congress in March 2021.<sup>82</sup> "To prioritize symmetrical 1 gigabit capacity ... is to prioritize a 'fiber first' policy. (Such a policy is consistent with the hybrid fiber-coax (HFC) strategy of cable systems' [DOCSIS 4.0](#) and its 10 Gbps down/6 Gbps up capability.)" Wheeler stated that "[f]iber's benefits are driven by the combination of increased processing power at the ends of the fiber and the ability to handle that increasing capacity... [A]pplying increased

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<sup>79</sup> <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/otard-amicus.pdf>.

<sup>80</sup> Id.

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.wirelesswatchblog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Statement-of-Physical-Disabilities-1.pdf>.

<sup>82</sup> Tom Wheeler's Testimony to Congress, [https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Witness%20Testimony\\_Wheeler\\_FC\\_2021.03.22.pdf](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Witness%20Testimony_Wheeler_FC_2021.03.22.pdf).

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processing to the data flowing through a conduit that itself has increasing capacity is the definition of futureproofing.”

Another factor to consider for purposes of ensure digital equity and broadband inclusion is affordability, capacity and scalability to meet increasing user demands over the local network’s economic life, including performance, speed, low latency, capacity and reliability. Fiber best meets these demands. Wireless is less reliable and less scalable to meet future customer demands and has higher operational expense.<sup>83</sup> As Tom Wheeler testified, wireless should be used only as a last resort.

Fiber broadband would provide access, adoption, affordability, digital equity and digital inclusion.

Fiber optics broadband to and through the premises is a necessity for disadvantaged communities and is the best solution to bridge the digital divide. It provides the best capacity for remote learning for children and students who are part of disadvantaged communities, and more reliable access to medical and other services for the elderly and disabled during emergencies or severe weather when wireless service is more likely to be interrupted or out of service. Fiber would also prevent the exclusion of those disabled or suffering from wireless radiation who cannot be near wireless infrastructure or wireless Internet.

Disadvantaged, unserved, and underserved communities are disproportionately affected by lack of, or insufficient access to, broadband access. Middle mile fiber optics infrastructure has been built in many areas with middle mile fiber running past rural communities without serving them, hence the “digital divide.”

Fiber to and through the premises (FTTP) is the superior service for bridging the digital divide and providing appropriate accommodation for the EMS disabled, so that these communities are not left behind. Former FCC Chair Tom Wheeler called fiber “future proof,” and said that wireless should be used only as a last resort, not a first resort, in his March, 2021 Congressional testimony.<sup>84</sup> Wheeler stated that despite approximately \$40 billion of government subsidies “over the last decade,” those subsidies “have failed to deliver the goal of universal access to high-speed broadband ... because it failed to insist on futureproof technology, ... and focused more on the companies being subsidized than the technology being used or the people who were supposed to be served.”<sup>85</sup>

FTTP will provide the best capacity for remote learning for children and students, particularly those who are already EMS disabled, and more reliable access to medical and other services for the elderly and disabled during emergencies or severe weather when wireless service is more likely to be interrupted. FTTP will also prevent the exclusion of the EMS disabled who cannot be near wireless infrastructure or wireless Internet.

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<sup>83</sup> “To Reduce Network Operating Expenses, Choose FTTH,” Masha Zager, July 2020, <https://www.bbcmag.com/broadband-applications/to-reduce-network-operating-expenses-choose-ftth>.

<sup>84</sup> Tom Wheeler’s Testimony to Congress, [https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Witness%20Testimony\\_Wheeler\\_FC\\_2021.03.22.pdf](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Witness%20Testimony_Wheeler_FC_2021.03.22.pdf).

<sup>85</sup> Id.

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Wheeler’s statements point to the fact that wireless and fiber are not equivalent broadband media – they are not substitutes; wireless is and should be a complement, not the primary access method. Fiber is “futureproof” while wireless is not. A policy paper of the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy, “Re-Inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks”, authored by Timothy Schoechle, PhD, communications technology expert, similarly states that “[f]iber is unmatched in its speed, performance, reliability, etc. ... Wireless is not a substitute for fiber.”<sup>86</sup>

Fiber is more affordable, scalable from symmetrical (upload and download) speeds of 100 Mbps to 1Gbps to 10Gbps, has a longer life span of 25-50 years and is safer and more cybersecure, has lower operational expenses,<sup>87</sup> and is available at more affordable prices. By contrast, wireless typically requires equipment upgrades, constant maintenance and re-investments about every 5 years. An example of fiber deployment, consumers in Hamilton County, TN have multiple service options, which include speeds of up to 1000 Mbps (1 Gbps). Pricing and capacity are scalable and provide for 300 Mbps at \$57.99/month and 1 Gbps at \$67.99, in each instance with symmetrical speeds.<sup>88</sup> Wireless technology is not able to effectively compete with similar high-speed Internet, with the FCC only requiring 25 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload speeds.<sup>89</sup> <sup>90</sup> The Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) has shown that consumers prefer the symmetrical speeds that fiber provides.<sup>91</sup> As the largest fiber optics trade association in the U.S. states, “If it isn’t fiber, it isn’t broadband.”<sup>92</sup> The FBA also shows the superior technology of fiber in its white paper, “The Market Has Spoken.”<sup>93</sup>

Fiber deployment has also been an economic boon to Hamilton County.<sup>94</sup> A study calculated the realized economic value of fiber optic infrastructure in Hamilton County and the city of Chattanooga, over about a 10-year period from 2011 to March 2020. The economic value exceeded \$2.69 billion and 9,516 jobs over the study period, with the value exceeding the costs of the fiber optic project by over \$2.20 billion, and about 40 percent of all jobs created. It found that about 52% of the value of the fiber infrastructure was reflected in local economic development – “over \$1.4 billion in new investments, startup funding, real

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<sup>86</sup> “Reinventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks,” National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy, authored by Timothy Schoechle, PhD; <https://electromagnetichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ReInventing-Wires-1-25-18.pdf>.

<sup>87</sup> <https://optics.fiberbroadband.org/Full-Article/reduce-network-operating-expenses-choose-ftth>.

<sup>88</sup> <https://bestneighborhood.org/tv-and-internet-hamilton-county-tn/>.

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.allconnect.com/blog/internet-speed-classifications-what-is-fast-internet>.

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/broadband-progress-reports/2018-broadband-deployment-report>.

<sup>91</sup> [https://www.broadbandworldnews.com/document.asp?doc\\_id=773546](https://www.broadbandworldnews.com/document.asp?doc_id=773546).

<sup>92</sup> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.fiberbroadband.org/download/3555.4237?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIZGD7FMLIYLBZNI&Expires=1650065068&Signature=CfFGHmOkZaAovAfuGmXXs2hDpKo%3D>.

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.fiberbroadband.org/p/cm/ld/fid=978>.

<sup>94</sup> “Ten Years of Fiber Optic and Smart Grid Infrastructure in Hamilton County, Tennessee,” Bento J. Lobo, Ph.D., CFA First Tennessee Bank Distinguished Professor of Finance, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, August 31, 2020, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352221978\\_Ten\\_Years\\_of\\_Fiber\\_Optic\\_and\\_Smart\\_Grid\\_Infrastructure\\_in\\_Hamilton\\_County\\_Tennessee](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352221978_Ten_Years_of_Fiber_Optic_and_Smart_Grid_Infrastructure_in_Hamilton_County_Tennessee).

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estate development and payments-in-lieu of taxes.” “Each county resident is estimated to have benefited by about \$646 per year due to the incremental value generated by the fiber optic infrastructure.”

Another example of substantial long term cost savings using fiber broadband is Chanute, KS which “operates a 10 Gbps fiber-optic broadband ring.” This fiber network “connects schools and other community anchor institutions with gigabit networks ... The network generates \$600,000 per year for Chanute’s Electric Utility ... This ... has demonstrated that communities can meet their own telecommunications needs with smart public investments — they did not wait for national corporations to solve their problems.” City Manager J.D. Lester refers to municipal broadband as ‘the great equalizer for Rural America’ ...”<sup>95</sup>

An example of a rural area which achieved access, digital equity and digital inclusion is rural eastern Kentucky. Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative (PRTC) completed a 100% all fiber-to-the-premises buildout in 2014, a Gigabit-capable internet available to every home and business in the counties of Jackson and Owsley, Kentucky.<sup>96</sup>

In light of Tom Wheeler’s “fiber-first” policy and the enormous advantage fiber provides over wireless, the FCC should consider the recommendations in the policy paper “Reinventing Wires ...” of the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy (NISLAPP), in what former President of Microsoft Canada, Frank Clegg, calls “a reasonable voice for our turbulent world.”<sup>97</sup>

NISLAPP explains that, first, the public needs publicly-owned and controlled wired infrastructure that is inherently more future-proof, more reliable, more sustainable, more energy efficient, safer, and more essential to many other services. Wireless networks and services, compared to wired access, are inherently more complex, more costly, more unstable (subject to frequent revision and “upgrades”), and more constrained in what they can deliver.

Secondly, NISLAPP recommends preserving, renewing, or expanding the use of existing (or new) copper wiring (and rights-of-way). Thirdly, there should be a policy of resorting to wireless access only at endpoints, **primarily for things that move**, or in situations where wiring is not possible or practical—but not relying on wireless for basic access.

These recommendations are preferable to reliance on privatized or semi-privatized (e.g public-private partnerships) providers for Internet access, whether wired or wireless. Rather, the discussion should shift toward Internet as a basic public utility and a re-commitment to the Internet’s founding principles of open networks, interoperability and equal access to all:

- High-speed optical fiber-based Internet access networks should be available to every community and every member with a direct hard-wired connection to every household and workplace.

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<sup>95</sup> In Kansas, Rural Chanute Built Its Own Gigabit Fiber and Wireless Network,” Christopher Mitchell 10-2-21, <https://ilsr.org/chanute-rural-gigabit/>.

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.soar-ky.org/prtc/>.

<sup>97</sup> “Re-inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks,” by Timothy Schoechle, PhD, Timothy Schoechle, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy (NISLAPP), <https://gettingsmarteraboutthesmartgrid.org/pdf/Wires.pdf>.

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- The Internet has become a basic public good vital to our society (a public commons), and it should be available to all in a safe, reliable, fair, affordable, and energy-efficient manner.
- Wireless access service is not an adequate substitute for wires and should be considered only as an adjunct or complement to wired access service.
- Thus, in principle, community networks should be financed, constructed, and managed in a manner analogous to such public infrastructure as municipal water systems, sewers, streets, or libraries.

## CONCLUSION

The disadvantaged communities include the EMS disabled who need accommodation.

Therefore, a major metric to measure compliance with President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, is measurement of EMS disadvantaged communities, on the ground: (1) the level of electrosmog generated, or that would be potentially generated, from wireless infrastructure (2) the amount of fiber optics deployed, and needed to deploy, to provide accommodation to the EMS disabled communities and to achieve the Initiative’s goal of clean energy for these disadvantaged communities and (3) the extent of accommodation for those disadvantaged communities with injuries from wireless exposure. Fiber optics deployment for FTTP would ensure the best connectivity, digital inclusion, environmental equity, as well as safety for the environment and for the health of the communities. These metrics would help “to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.”

As Chair Brenda Mallory of the White House Council on Environmental Quality has stated, the goal to “help Federal agencies ensure that the benefits of the nation’s climate, clean energy, and environmental programs are finally reaching the communities that have been left out and left behind for far too long.”<sup>98</sup> The EMS disabled “have been left out and left behind for far too long.” Now with the Justice40 Initiative, the FCC has the opportunity to rectify this inequality for the disadvantaged communities of the EMS disabled. It can serve a significant role by prioritizing fiber as the access method of choice, and encouraging the development of RF-free zones in public areas and near residences so the EMS disabled can once again have a safe home environment and rejoin the rest of society.

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<sup>98</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2022/02/18/ceq-publishes-draft-climate-and-economic-justice-screening-tool-key-component-in-the-implementation-of-president-bidens-justice40-initiative/>.



## **Addendum: Stories of The EMS Disabled**

### **In Their Own Words**

#### **GEORGE S., NEW YORK CITY**

George S. was a healthy New York/New Jersey Port Authority Police Lieutenant with a good job, good health, and a three-story house in Astoria, Queens in New York City. George purchased the home in 2013 and refurbished it. He moved in a year later and in 2020 his younger sister, 31 years old, moved into the third story of the house. George was on the second floor. He had tenants on the first floor.

In September 2020, George returned from Europe where his father just had a quadruple bypass. He had been caring for him for five weeks. In his front yard was a cell tower. He doesn't know if you'd call it a small cell or a macro tower. He doesn't really know the difference. But it was a 35' to 40' tall tower with a canister on top that appeared to be omnidirectional and two antennas facing in opposite directions but seeming to cover almost 360° at a slightly lower level than the canister itself. George's front yard lined up perfectly with the 1000-unit apartment building across the street which was probably the target of the wireless carrier. He had received no notice, no warning. He simply came back to find what appeared to be a multidirectional antenna on a big pole had placed atop the old utility pole that was a fixture in the easement of his yard.

George's sister had just completed seven months of chemotherapy at Sloan-Kettering when the antenna was installed. She had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a type of cancer that affects the lymphatic system.

Even though her chemotherapy was behind her, George's sister started experiencing headaches and nausea after the cell tower was installed. She told her doctor about the new tower and the doctor cautioned that RF radiation could aggravate her condition. The oncologist advised that it was essential she avoid all radiation including RF (wireless) radiation during treatment.

George, for the first time in his life, started suffering from heart arrhythmias and sleep deprivation. He went to a cardiologist for an evaluation and was fitted with a halter containing a cardiac monitor to wear for two weeks. The results showed multiple arrhythmias. They were PVCs or premature ventricular contractions. These are the most common of the irregular heart rhythms. The heartbeat is created by electrical signals that originate in cells in the heart's upper chamber, the right atrium. That electrical signal moves down through the heart to the lower chambers where the electrical current arrives in the ventricles, causing them to contract and pump oxygen-rich blood out to the body. For George this meant that a critical heartbeat came too early, disrupting the heart's normal rhythm.

The sudden onset and the severity of the arrhythmia caused George's new cardiologist to suggest an invasive procedure where they placed a catheter through an artery into George's heart. The doctor tried to replicate the arrhythmia to see if they could perform a cardiac ablation to stop the electrical charge between heart chambers. Ablation is a procedure in a small area of the heart tissue that is causing rapid and irregular heartbeats. Yet the doctor, to his surprise, was not able to replicate the arrhythmia.

George did not have arrhythmia when outside of his home environment, only when in his house. The arrhythmia returned when George returned from the hospital procedure to his home. The doctor then did a second procedure to perform a cardiac ablation, but again, they found nothing wrong.



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Increasingly, the level of radiation in the home was beginning to look like the culprit. In addition to the never before experienced cardiac arrhythmia, George had experienced headaches, lack of mental clarity, and insomnia that had come out of nowhere, noticeable when he first returned from caring for his father in September 2020. George had never even considered that cell towers could trigger symptoms. He used the technology and he liked it. He wasn't prone to conspiracy theories. He was a Police Lieutenant. and he relied on facts.

George decided to try an experiment. Even though his girlfriend rented one room in NYC, he started staying over there just to see if he slept better. There was a noticeable difference in all his symptoms. The symptoms simply did not occur away from home. In part to address his symptoms and part to protect his sister, George and his sister moved out of the house. He was living in a rented home, all the while paying a significant mortgage on the home he owned – the one with the cell tower in the front yard. George had bought the house across from the East River with every bit of savings he had from over 20 years of extremely hard work. He redid the house from top to bottom. He created four apartments in one three-story home and had a plan mapped out for his financial future. Then the cell tower came.

"They should have safe zones," explains George. "They should have a buffer zone from houses. What's fair is fair. We should have input on where these towers go. I came back to find my sister sicker than when I had left, and everybody I called at the city was either abrasive or they didn't have any information or they didn't know anything. The lack of empathy and the lack of control – like all of our freedoms are taken away with these towers – is like nothing I've ever seen before. It doesn't make any sense."

"I've been a public servant all my life. I was a full paramedic at 19 – the youngest in New York City. A police officer at 20. I worked my way up doing every beat that you can do," says George, and then he pauses. Silence follows, and there's good reason for that somber silence as he reflects. George and his partner were working near the World Trade Center on 9/11. They ran to help and in tandem they pulled people out. George would pull a victim out and as he pulled the person to safety, his partner would run back in. Then they would switch. It was during one of those exchanges, as George was pulling another victim to safety, that his partner ran back in and then the tower collapsed. George's partner was later found in the rubble.

"I was finally a police lieutenant in charge of 300 people," George continues, "and suddenly they put this tower in my front yard and I couldn't sleep at night. I wasn't a great boss at that point because I was so sleep deprived. My heart was racing at night, and I was one of these people who believed that there was no harm from these towers. I use the technology. I like the technology. But you can't put these towers in people's yards with no notice, no negotiation, no room for compromise. Why not put the tower in the flat surface parking lot by the 1000-unit apartment complex the carrier was trying to service? I guess they liked the angle from my front yard because they probably made more money. It was a more direct line of radiation at more apartments. But I paid the price."

"I am \$250,000 in debt because I took my entire life savings and put it into the house and then spent years fixing the house up and was finally able to rent out the extra apartments." George states the facts matter-of-factly, not defeated, yet clearly not knowing how he can dig out of this hole. He has an unmarketable home, and his entire life savings is serving as a base station for a wireless carrier. "I was in Europe taking care of our dad and I came home to find my sister, who was finally done with her cancer treatment, was incredibly ill for no apparent reason. Her bedroom window was parallel with the tower. The doctor said if we stayed, her cancer could come back.

## Eliminating Digital Discrimination For the EMS Disabled (Susan Foster and Odette J. Wilkins)

George S concludes "The FCC is betraying their responsibility...The FCC is not doing their job. If I'm not doing my job, I get indicted. If the FCC doesn't do their job, nothing happens to them. Aren't they supposed to be protecting us? So what happens to them? Nothing."

### **LILY MARIE, HELL'S KITCHEN, NYC**

Lily Marie was an 81-year-old actress, model, writer, member of the Screen Actors Guild living on the top floor of a high-rise in the West Side of Midtown Manhattan in New York City, *also known as Hell's Kitchen*. Lily Marie had been working hard since she was 17, putting herself through college working as a secretary and waitress. The breakthrough in acting in New York City came after college. She doesn't consider herself a celebrity though others would. She's walked the runway in the top designer's clothes. Her favorite was Oscar de la Renta. She sang, "did the soaps," television shows and has a list of movie credits that include The French Connection, Stiletto, A Lovely Way to Die with Kirk Douglas, and Reflections in a Golden Eye with Elizabeth Taylor and Marlon Brando. For 45 years, Lily Marie loved her apartment at the top of a NYC high-rise, and her view of the city that had brought her opportunity and an exciting career of hard work and tremendous joy.

Everything in her world changed on September 30, 2020. That was the night wireless transmitters were activated after installation on the rooftop right above Lily Marie's apartment. There was no notification to the residents. Five antennas simply appeared on the rooftop, three of them directly above her apartment. She recalls she instantly felt different, with sudden, severe headaches and a high-pitched constant tinnitus, what Lily Marie refers to as "screaming in her ears." It was worse at night. She would lie in bed, exhausted yet unable to sleep, experiencing heart palpitations, IBS (irritable bowel syndrome), diarrhea, nausea, dizziness, a feeling of electrical sensation running from her neck to her head, forgetfulness, and general cognitive dysfunction, or "brain fog." As the days went on, her symptoms worsened. She developed bilateral hearing loss, and persistent nausea and vomiting. Lily Marie experienced these symptoms 24/7 for 26 months. In her own words: "It's brutal."

Lily Marie had to evacuate her apartment of 45 years and move to a more rural setting to escape from the transmitters above her apartment, and increasingly throughout New York City. Unfortunately, there are now wireless transmitters outside of her apartment in a more rural setting that are causing similar issues, although not as severe as the 26 months of hell she experienced in the penthouse floor overlooking New York City. Lily Marie's EMS disability remains a constant. She wears protective clothing when possible and it seems to help. When explaining this syndrome of neurological symptoms she experiences to a new doctor in her new setting, that physician referred to the described symptoms and the attributions to cell towers as "a theory."

Lily Marie told the dismissive doctor he was dismissed. She now has a new physician who is aware of the neurological symptoms that can result from radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation exposure (RF-EMF). But this physician is at a loss about how to help Lily Marie.

The new managers in her current location will not making any accommodation for her EMS disability, as they know nothing about the condition. They are kind, but without the appropriate instruction for how to minimize overall Wi-Fi exposure in the new assisted living facility, they are at a loss as to how they can help. Lily Marie would love to have hard wiring in the room she now rents at an assisted living facility so she could plug in a wired computer. She wants to communicate with her friends and those she worked in the business with for decades.

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The woman who used to strut Oscar de la Renta down the runway now wraps her head in a protective fabric ski cap to stop the throbbing pain and lessen the ringing in her ears.

### **ROGER M., LOVELAND, COLORADO**

“It was a Friday afternoon when we were noticed. All the notice said was that Verizon was coming to install several small antennae on the rooftop. The workmen arrived on Monday. They came every day from 7 AM to 7 PM and worked for three or four weeks. It was more than a few antennae. They even had a crane to lift the concealment wall that shielded the wireless equipment they put literally above my head,” recalls Richard M.

Richard lived on the top floor of ArtSpace, a not-for-profit four-story building. The residents were all artists of some kind. The subsidized housing provided a place to live and work at one’s craft in Loveland, Colorado. A musician and composer, Roger M. had played freelance gigs along the Front Range for years. A versatile musician, Roger was known as someone who was available for touring groups who needed a backup player. He played for theater productions, cruise ships and was frequently found at his piano, writing jazz. His top floor apartment in Loveland doubled as home and studio, he had steady work performing and life was good.

Roger went from living his dream to living in his car to just trying to survive.

He is torn when apportioning blame. Roger doesn’t know whether ArtSpace made a deal to lease out the rooftop of his building without seriously investigating the possible health consequences for the residents. Yet without doubt, he feels Verizon has told the residents too many carefully crafted lies to be doing anything other than purposeful concealment. And he is angry at the FCC for what Roger refers to as “gaslighting and failing to protect the public.”

In the 1944 film *Gaslight* starring Ingrid Bergman, a husband uses deceit to convince his wife that she is delusional so he can steal from her. The term is commonly used to describe someone being manipulated into questioning their own reality, usually so it advantages the person or entity doing the manipulating.

“Verizon tells you that they are operating at just 2% of what the FCC allows,” explains Roger, “at least that’s what the first couple of flyers said. They had an apartment building full of sick residents and they were trying to tell us that we were fools to be concerned.

“They throw your life into chaos,” Roger continues, “and amidst that chaos they deny any harm is coming from the tower. So when they told us what we were being exposed to was just a fraction of what the FCC allowed, I called the FCC. They told me the base station was well within the regulatory limits and then they quickly shifted to their default position: ‘The FCC is not a health and safety agency.’

“They are playing us for fools – *both* Verizon and the FCC,” says Roger, with special emphasis on the word *both*. “It’s all smoke and mirrors. Verizon’s lies wouldn’t work without the FCC’s and vice versa. That Verizon base station on our rooftop may be emitting 2% of what the FCC allows, but how can the FCC allow a level so high that at 2% every single person who lived in that ArtSpace building was feeling the effects either neurologically or they were sick all the time.

“My position is that the FCC should just stop talking because if their default position is they aren’t a health and safety agency, what are they doing regulating the amount of radiation everybody in this country

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receives? They say they rely on other agencies, like the FDA. So you go to the FDA website and they say the same thing the FCC does. They say 'no known adverse health effects.'

"It's just a scam," surmises Roger. "This is one big shell game being played by a federal agency and a wireless carrier. They are joining together to gaslight anybody who gets sick."

Verizon had begun construction on the rooftop in January 2021. The residents think the tower was activated around April but they were unsure. Many were not feeling well but were trying to write their symptoms off to other things. No one wants to lose their home. But in August it became undeniable to all that the base station on the roof was a problem. Everybody was feeling sick or suffering debilitating headaches and insomnia. By October, Roger was paying rent to house his piano and other instruments and sleeping in his car.

Yet this was Colorado and when winter came, Roger was forced to go into his savings to pay for a hotel. He was unable to find alternative housing. The waiting list for subsidized housing was years long, and he couldn't find an apartment he could afford. The man who could fit in anywhere as a musician suddenly had no place to go. He was still paying rent at ArtSpace and the hotels throughout the area were not cheap. He couldn't get out of his lease until finally, in an act of desperation or perhaps inspiration, Roger bought a meter that allowed him to do RF radiation measurements in his apartment. He videotaped the meter walking down the hallway toward his apartment. The readings were high but suddenly as he opened the apartment door, the meter jumped in multiples of 100  $\mu\text{W}$  per meter squared. Then Roger walked to various well-known places in Loveland, including coffee shops where people could come and use their laptops. Nothing came close to approximating the readings in Roger's apartment. He sent the video to the management company and ArtSpace. They let him out of his lease.

Roger explains that almost everyone moved out or at least they wanted to, but the problem for all was the rents which had skyrocketed since the pandemic, and there was really no place to go. Living in subsidized housing so they could do their craft – whether it was music or painting or pottery, had been appealing. In the beginning the building had quickly filled with artist-residents. Roger had been the first to move in and that was 2015. This was his community. This was everyone's community within ArtSpace. Now, as soon as they could get out of their leases, residents were leaving for cars, relative's homes, and the few able to afford other apartments.

"I don't know a person in the whole building who wasn't affected," recalls Roger. "Those of us closer to the rooftop probably got hit the hardest. I was like a zombie. It was the lack of sleep, I'm sure, but it was the lack of clarity of thought that went above and beyond sleep deprivation.

"Friends would come over and I wouldn't say anything because I didn't want to predispose them to thinking they didn't feel well," he explains. "But every single person who came over to visit would complain of a headache and body chills. I knew it wasn't some sort of 'mass hysteria' for those of us who lived in the building. It affected every single one of our friends.

"People stopped calling for gigs because I wasn't working, I couldn't perform, I couldn't compose, I couldn't think. I was just trying to survive," Roger states, a tired bluntness in his voice.

"I didn't move out capriciously. Who wants to leave their home, their personal possessions, and for me, my love and my profession – music."

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The symptoms of electrosensitivity have not left Roger, even though he improved when he moved out of ArtSpace. The brain fog is still with him, he is without savings, and without income. After sharing his story, Roger pauses and then shares one final thought.

“What I want to say to Verizon and the FCC is ‘Quit lying and quit killing us.’”

### **THE GILARDI FAMILY, PITTSFIELD MASSACHUSETTS**

It was Earth Day, 2021. Based on the children’s classic *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, Amelia Gilardi rewrote and retitled, for purposes of Earth Day, the story based on a challenge faced by her family and her community in which the environment plays a central role. “5G Earth Day Countdown: Children — Amelia’s Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Cell Tower Days” was an ode to her community and in so many ways, it spoke to a much broader audience.

*My name is Amelia and I am 13 years old.*

*A Verizon cell tower blindsided my Pittsfield, Massachusetts neighborhood and made us sick. This is my story.*

*Last March, we were sent home from school due to the pandemic. The ice skating show that we had worked so hard practicing for was canceled. Auditions for my school musical were cancelled. My weekend nature program was cancelled. Everything was cancelled.*

*Everything except the construction happening in my neighborhood.*

*Trucks were rolling by our house – big ones, flatbed ones, trucks carrying other trucks. When trying to clear the corner between Plumb and Alma Street, the weight of the truck was so much it crushed the water main beneath the road. We couldn’t get the car out past the repair crew and went without water for the day. No one knew why.*

*Because we were home with no plan to return to school, we tried to keep busy. For Christmas, my sister and I got mountain bikes and we went riding up our street like we always did. But this time, at the top of the street, we saw parked trucks and the cleared trees. Where there was forest that was once part of the Herman Melville Farm, a land called “Arrowhead” after Melville having found them in the fields, was now a big, open clearing.*

*Trees by the dozens had been chopped down and were lying on the ground. Some had been wood chipped and spread from Alma Street to the clearing. None of the neighbors waking their dogs or out for a jog or pushing their children in strollers had any idea why.*

*Mom called our City Councilor and he didn’t know why. He said he would call the Department of Public Works and put some calls into the city to find out. When he got back to mom, he said no one knew anything about the construction. Mom came out for a walk with us and took a photo of the trucks. She called the construction company and asked what they were doing. That is when we learned it was a cell tower.*

Amelia Gilardi is an amazing 13-year-old playing the leading teen role in a theater she never tried out for, with some adults in roles she never dreamed she would witness.

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Amelia Gilardi is Courtney Gilardi's daughter. That explains a lot.

The startling news that a 115-foot tall, 12-antenna cell tower was being constructed in their neighborhood in the section of Pittsfield historically known as Shacktown concerned Amelia's mother, Courtney. Construction had already begun. Twenty of the 22 neighbors had not been noticed as was required by the local zoning ordinance, and none of them had been noticed within the period of time allotted for an appeal of permit approval. In the ensuing months Courtney Gilardi and her neighbors struggled to understand how this could happen without notice in their community.

After the tower was activated symptoms were, for most, immediate. Courtney dove into the research. She contacted experts around the country, in Canada and in Europe. Verizon did not inform the residents when the tower was turned on. They knew because their bodies told them. They stopped sleeping through the night if they could get to sleep at all. They were plagued with headaches, vertigo, nausea, brain fog, skin rashes and within the next 18 months there would be two diagnoses of cancer and one recurrence of cancer. Family pets would die, and even the moles did not return to family gardens as the ground started to thaw after winter had passed. Bees and other pollinators began to disappear.

Courtney Gilardi and her husband have two girls, one Courtney refers to as "my little one" for the sake of privacy, and 13-year-old Amelia who has accompanied her mother to every Pittsfield City Council and Board of Health meeting, speaking publicly each time, imploring them month after month to help them find some relief from the injurious Verizon tower. Many of the neighbors joined the fight but few made it their mission to contact experts internationally and invite them to virtual town halls to educate residents and community leaders about the health impacts associated with RF (wireless) radiation.

What sets this story apart what residents all over the country are starting to experience an intrusion of cell towers into residential neighborhoods and on school grounds at an alarming pace is the fact the Gilardis are fighting back. The relentless drumbeat by Courtney and Amelia began to include more neighbors as the months went by. Under longstanding Massachusetts law Health Boards have strong and extensive authority to require that injurious commercial operation be eliminated, so the Gilardis asked the Board to step in and provide relief. On February 2, 2022 the Pittsfield, Massachusetts Board of Health unanimously voted to require that Verizon and the landowner to appear and show cause why the Board should not issue a cease and desist order. The Board took almost two years reviewing the extensive scientific, medical and personal evidence and expressly found that the cluster of illnesses was caused by the tower's operation. The Board encouraged Verizon to work with the city and residents to reduce the impact on these families but indicated Verizon would be required to cease operations if it persisted in its position that the city was powerless to protect Pittsfield residents from harm. This is the first known cease-and-desist by a state/local Board of Health against a wireless carrier in the United States.

Verizon refused to appear or negotiate. It responded to the Board of Health's issuance of the cease-and-desist with a [federal lawsuit](#), filed May 10, 2022, in a Massachusetts U.S. District Court. The carrier asked the court to rule that the Board is indeed powerless to protect Pittsfield residents even after an expert medical agency finding of both injury and causation. Verizon claims that state and local health authorities are completely preempted by [47 U.S.C. §332\(c\)\(7\)\(B\)\(iii\)](#), which prohibits state and local [zoning authorities](#), from "regulat[ing] the placement, construction, and modification of [personal wireless service facilities](#) on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the [Commission's](#) regulations concerning such emissions." The tower looming over the Shacktown section of Pittsfield was tested and found to be within the regulatory limits set by the FCC, so Verizon contends it can operate even if the resultant emissions lead to severe injury or even death and in the face of traditional state police powers.

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Courtney Gilardi has been working tirelessly to educate her own community, and simultaneously educating communities across the country, that this practice of wireless carriers bringing their cell towers into residential areas and next to schools has to stop. The fact that this tower is at least arguably within regulatory limits set by the FCC may make Verizon feel they have the upper hand, but it is clearly making a very wide swath of neighbors in the vicinity of the tower sick.

“My little one had headaches, dizziness, and felt like her head was ‘buzzy,’ explains Courtney. “She also suffered from the sensation that her skin was crawling and was itchy when she was in her room, which was on the side of the house closest to the cell tower. She complained of stomach aches and a once voracious eater and a like-clockwork sleeper could do neither. Since the tower was activated she has lost her appetite for food and complained she couldn’t fall asleep. Those were never issues in the past. She also suffered with horrible nightmares. She would toss and turn and scream out. I only realized how often she did this after we moved to the cottage and she slept peacefully through the night.”

The cottage Courtney is referring to is the unheated cottage they have rented so they can escape their home which they hope and pray they can return to, but much of that depends on a federal judge’s decision. The cottage does not have hot water so Courtney and her family return to their “tower home” for a hot shower, but it is a place they can sleep through the night.

“When we would spend too much time at home, my little one would ask to leave and go to the cottage,” explains Courtney, describing how they would return to the house to get clothes, take a hot shower, and be with their toys and amenities they enjoyed and never contemplated leaving until Verizon became their unwelcome neighbor.

“She would say, “I’m ready now” and we knew despite mentally wanting to stay in her own room with her toys, ‘lovies’, fort, books and the only home she had ever known, that physically she knew her body felt better spending time in a rundown cottage where the only thing she had was a mattress on the floor and many mice for company.

At our home by the tower, she would lay down on the kitchen bench with her legs curled up to her stomach with red, puffy eyes, looking miserable, sleep deprived and not feeling herself. She would be so nauseous that she missed school, which led to her losing confidence as she felt she was falling behind in her studies,” describes the mom of two. “Despite being one of the top students in the class, she felt like she had missed so much and felt ill so often and felt that reflected in her work, that she chose to not take the 5th grade MCAS testing.”

Courtney pauses for a moment as she describes what her “little one” has gone through, and then continues. “One day, within 10 minutes of going to school, she vomited into her face mask. It wasn’t the first time it would happen. She would sleep with a bucket besides her bed and both her dad and I would take turns holding her hair back.

“Amelia, at our first in person Board of Health meeting, shared what our routine was like. She reminded me that we needed to ‘show’ not ‘tell’ what life by the tower was like.” So, with her mother by her side, 13-year-old Amelia Gilardi sat behind the table testifying with her mom showing the various medications Amelia now takes, and the pan she would keep at the side of her bed when the waves of nausea were intense and sudden.

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“Amelia would get dizzy. She is my ice skater and gymnast with great balance, and I would watch her walk into walls,” describes Courtney. “Sometimes she would vomit in the middle of the night and I'd hear her little voice besides me in the dark by my bedside saying, “Mama, I'm sick. I just threw up in the sink.’

“Sometimes she would get headaches. She would be dizzy. I remember her schooling from home and having missed several days and realizing that I should check in with the school nurse and tell her why. I remember wondering what she would say, and to my surprise, she actually knew about the [cell tower harms] issue and was supportive.”

“For Amelia, sleep had never come easy, but once she fell asleep, she was a sound and solid sleeper. After the tower, that wasn't the case,” Courtney explains, describing the sudden onset symptoms of classic electromagnetic sensitivity. “She not only had a hard time falling asleep and was often still up at midnight. She just couldn't stay asleep. She was up at 1:00 AM, 2:00 AM, 3:00 AM in the morning. She testified at the City Council getting as few as two to three hours of sleep a night. Often around 4:00 AM or 5:00 AM she would fall asleep, only to be woken by the alarm at 6:00 AM. She never felt or looked rested. She had dark circles under her eyes which always looked tired.

“She had headaches and would ask for Tylenol. We hardwired everything and bought her blue light glasses and tried to spend as much time away from home as possible.” Courtney describes trying to juggle their lives and adjust everything, sometimes on a daily basis. Watching her daughters' misery was the hardest part. As she was trying to empower her neighbors she sometimes felt powerless herself. In describing Amelia's struggle, Courtney shares, “Sometimes she would vomit, sometimes she would just retch, and watching that was even worse, because it was like something wanted to come out, but couldn't, and she couldn't get any relief. We tried Tums, papaya enzyme, chamomile, mints, ginger chews and ginger tea and a relaxing lavender spray. We tried everything, but nothing really worked besides distance, which meant leaving our home.”

When Amelia Gilardi wrote her own version of the children's classic about Alexander's horrible day, she ended with the following. The only factual change is that the Health Department has, indeed, sided with the Gilardis against Verizon. Now it's up to a federal judge in a country with increasing numbers of residents extremely unhappy to have cell towers invading their neighborhoods and marking the school grounds at their children's schools.

From Amelia:

### ***The really bad, worst, no good bad part –***

*We learned that we were not the only ones harmed by cell towers. We were put in touch with Noah Davidson's family in Sacramento California. Both their girls, like us, got sick when a 5G tower was placed outside their bedroom window. No one listened to them either.*

*Mom learned about a boy, my age in Canada, also harmed by wireless radiation since he was 5 years old. They made a movie about him and others who were harmed, called Prisoners without Walls. We talked and I learned he liked the same book series. He loved playing video games. He spoke French and liked making videos.*

*We started meeting families from all over with everyday kids, like us, who had been harmed from wireless radiation either from cell towers or mobile devices. Why, if so many people were being hurt from this, was no one helping them?*



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*So the truly bad, no good part is that the science is here but our legislators simply are not responding fast enough. Dr. Paul Heroux, Dr. Martha Herbert, Dr. Magda Havas, Dr. Cindy Russell, Dr. Sharon Goldberg, Theodora Scarato, Cecelia Doucette and many others have tried to educate Pittsfield about these issues. They have been silenced at meeting, and any letters from them or offers to present information or assist with an investigation have fallen on deaf ears.*

*My mom would ground me if I was told not to do something and I kept doing it over and over. I've heard my grandma say, "When we know better, we do better."*

*Big people, we know better. Please, do something. We never thought this could happen to us so please, don't wait until it happens to you.*

*I'm asking everyone who is reading this to **advocate for cell tower setbacks away from schools and homes**. I'm asking everyone to require the FCC standards that fail to protect us from biological harm to be updated. I'm asking you restore my neighborhood to the safe, residential place it was before the tower, and I am asking for each and every person to care about the wireless safety issue.*

*Our people, our pollinators and our planet depend on you.*

*Amelia*

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**Advocates for the EMS Disabled June 30, 2022 NOI Reply Comments**

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Implementing the Infrastructure Investment ) GN Docket No. 22-69  
and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of )  
Digital Discrimination )

**REPLY COMMENTS OF ADVOCATES FOR THE EMS DISABLED**

Children’s Health Defense, Susan Foster, Medical Writer, Fire & Utility Consultant;  
Odette J. Wilkens, President & General Counsel, Wired Broadband, Inc.; Frank Clegg,  
(formerly, President of Microsoft Canada), Canadians for Safe Technology; Kent Chamberlin,  
PhD, Former member of the NH Commission to Study The Environmental and Health Effects of  
Evolving 5G Technology; Californians for Safe Technology; Julie Levine, 5G Free California;  
Coloradans for Safe Technology; Larry Ortega, Community Union, Inc.; Paska Nayden,  
Connecticut for Responsible Technology; Ms. Eva Bortnick; Howard Goodman, Esq.; Safe  
Technology Minnesota; 5G Free Rhode Island; ; Napa Neighborhood For Safe Technology;  
Massachusetts for Safe Technology; New Hampshire for Safe Technology; New Yorkers 4  
Wired Tech; Pennsylvanians for Safe Technology; Stephen R. Dahl, Director, Rhode Islanders  
for Safe Technology; Safe Tech International; Sidnee Cox, Windsor, CA; Safe Tech for Santa  
Rosa; Virginians for Safe Technology; Mark Wahl, Director, Citizen League Encouraging  
Awareness of Radiation of Whidbey Island, WA; Lendri Purcell, President, FACTS (Families  
Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety); Ms. Linda Dance, Engineer; Lex Kisteneff, CEO  
& Founder, The South Carolina Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards; mocoSafeG.org in  
Montgomery County, MD; Kirstin Beatty, Director, Last Tree Laws Massachusetts, Holyoke,  
MA; Josh Hart, Director, StopSmartMeters.org; Pittsfield Cell Tower Injured and Concerned

Citizens; Liberty Goodwin, Director, Toxics Information Project (TIP); Richard Thom; Tracey Roizman, DC, Asheville, NC; Hank Allen, Idahoans for Safe Technology; Margaret Phillips, MA, MPH; Flo Mitchell Kosik; Grace Shen, Physical Therapist; Shawn Hutchens, CEO of Green Fields Trading Co Inc., Lake Station, Indiana; Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB); Maine Coalition to Stop Smart Meters; William Now, Carmichael, CA; Barbara Payne, President, Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation (EPIC); Keldwyn Teves, Artist & Writer, Fletcher, NC; Janet FitzGerald, Sharon MA; Patricia Burke, EHS Disabled, Journalist/Advocate, Millis, Massachusetts; Monique Maisenhalter, SWORT Board Member, SW Ohio for Responsible Technology; Nancy Perlman, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Diane Douglas, Licensed Occupational Therapist, Fairview, NC; Sharon Behn, Arden, NC; Tais Howard LAC, MAOM, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM); Natalie Sadler, MD, Holistic Psychiatry; Nancy Van Dover BA, DVM, OMD, Dipl Acup; Cynthia Franklin, Director, Consumers for Safe Cell Phones; Andrea Mercier, Mother; Cheriell Jensen; Mark Graham, Keep Cell Towers Away, Elk Grove, CA; Michael Muadin, President of AMRA, Alliance for Microwave Radiation Accountability, Inc., East Chatham, New York; Malibu For Safe Tech; Shannon Shine, Rocky Mountains for Safe Technology; Ann K. Friday, Relocate the Cell Tower Group, Prescott, AZ; Stephanie Thomas, Phoebe Ann Thomas Sorgen (Co-Founder), Soula Culver, Sarah Aminoff, Meaveen O'Conner, Sandy Nixon, Connie Anderson, Members, WiRED, Berkeley, CA; Luanne Moore, Boynton Beach, FL; Glen Ellyn VHP, Glen Ellyn, IL; Debra Green, Safe Tech Hawaii, Kihei, Hawaii; Shane Riley, 5G Free Oregon, Portland, OR; Keep Oregon for Safer Technology; Ellen Marks, California Brain Tumor Association, Indian Wells, CA; Frederick P. Sinclair, Jr., Alfred, NY; Cynthia Rahav, Berkeley, CA; Susan Jennings, SW Pennsylvania for Safe Technology, Mount Pleasant, PA; Lisa C. Smith, Safe Tech Tucson, Tucson, AZ; Linda Smith, EMF

Wellness Tucson, Tucson, AZ; Scott Tips, President & General Counsel, National Health Federation (hereafter “Advocates for the EMS Disabled”) submit these Reply Comments in in the above-captioned proceeding.

The Advocates for the EMS Disabled made two principal points in their Comments. First, the Commission should always prioritize “to the premise” fiber solutions and rely on wireless only when wired is technically or economically infeasible or the main purpose is mobility. Second, if the Commission is sincere about achieving “diversity, equity and inclusion” it ***must*** recognize the specific and profoundly deleterious effects of Radiofrequency Radiation (RFR) on the EMS Disabled and take immediate, full force-measures within its regulatory remit to address and solve this growing plight. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. The Commission can and should establish such zones, or at least allow local and state authorities to do so without threat or fear of litigation on preemption grounds. To fail to seek accommodation for this growing population of EMS Disabled is to facilitate, albeit unintentionally, the direct opposite of the stated goal of achieving diversity, equity and inclusion.

To illustrate the need for accommodation, the Advocates for the EMS Disabled offered in their May 16, 2022 filing with the FCC four (4) real-life accounts of individuals who have suffered EMS disability as a result of exposure to wireless radiation. Two of these cases were individuals who had cell towers placed in front of or within close proximity of their homes, one a macro tower and one a small cell. The other two individuals suffered disabling EMS symptoms after rooftop antennas were placed on the apartment buildings in which they lived. With these Reply Comments, the Advocates for the EMS Disabled summarize and highlight a sample of filed comments from individuals who have experienced Electromagnetic Sensitivity (EMS) – the

malady comprising a constellation of neurological symptoms, also referred to as Electrosensitivity (EHS).

As of June 28, 2022, there were 333 comments listed by ECFS the FCC in GN Docket No. 22-69. Among those 333 comments, 50.15 percent, more than 50 percent of the respondents, requested fiber to the premises (FTTP). More than 62 percent advocated that the EMS Disabled be accommodated with fiber to the premises and wireless-free zones. 65.17 percent stated they suffered from EMS disability or their family members and/or friends experienced symptoms of Electromagnetic Sensitivity.

### **FIBER TO THE PREMISES AS A SOLUTION**

More than 50 percent of the commenters took the time to argue for a “fiber first” preference, similar to that recently adopted by NTIA in its Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program Notice of Funding Opportunity.<sup>1</sup> Here are a few excerpts:

Prioritize fiber to the premises (FTTP) solutions. The goal should be to bring fiber as close to the user as possible, to use a copper tail for short distances where necessary, and to resort to wireless technology as a last resort due to health implications of wireless. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband. Discriminating against vulnerable populations, such as those with EMS, is unconscionable and is not consistent with the goal of achieving “diversity, equity and inclusion.” I urge the FCC to do everything in its power to halt any further discussion of expanding wireless services, recognize this specific problem and take special measures that are within its duty/regulatory authority to effectively address it and use fiber as an alternative.

[Tracy C Schlanser, June 6, 2022](#)

Please do all you can to enable fully WIRED TECHNOLOGY for all places, private and public, including Schools, Libraries, Hospitals, Universities, and more. This is a CRUCIAL matter to very many people.

[Martha Glaser, June 9, 2022](#)

Hello Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Science begins with our collective experiences (what is known) combined with logic & reason. As an engineer in the

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<sup>1</sup> The BEAD NOFO is available at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>.

telecom industry, I spent about 7 years (in the 1990s) designing & testing telecom equipment to meet the industry's requirements. The operating companies require equipment to limit RF emissions as well as be resistant to RF energy. The only reason for this is to not interfere with other electronics and intentional RF transmissions, including those in telecom. To pass the resistance tests the traffic must not have any bit errors when bombarded with RF at various frequencies & power. I learned that cell phones could create bit errors if the equipment could not pass the tests. It was at that time I realized that if cell phones could impact these shielded electronics which function at milliamp and low voltages (3v/5v/12v), how could they not impact living organisms where our electrical systems are in the millivolt & microamp range. Simple logic dictates that there must be some effect on living organisms without the shielding of the telecom equipment. In addition, RF was also known for its ability to excite molecules (one result is creating a heating effect). This could not be good for organisms either. Science dictates RF must have a negative effect on humans. While our experience can give us some good ideas of these negative effects, only research could give us the actual details of what these effects are. I came to learn there was a good deal of research from other countries during the early days of radar and in recent decades a great deal more research has been added. The FCC must be aware of this, no? Being exposed to so much RF humans are being harmed in many ways, so it's time to finally acknowledge this. You can no longer ignore the growing amount of evidence by many reputable scientists & organizations around the world. It's time to put fiber optic communications first, ahead of RF and 5G!

[Anthony P Notos, June 27, 2022](#)

Please build a broadband network with fiber optic cable to homes and businesses, rather than 5G. Fiber optic is better and safer in every respect. Fiber optic is faster, uses less energy, does not emit potentially hazardous radiation, and does not create a visual blight in our cities with ugly 5G transmitters located on every telephone pole. Please be smart and implement a fiber optic broadband system!

[Eben Fodor, June 7, 2022](#)

I am extremely concerned that the FCC is making wireless rollout the chosen way to go instead of wired (fiber-based) broadband which should be the preferred mode of broadband delivery.

[Bibi Caspari, June 21, 2022](#)

People have a right to choose what forms of technology they use. It should not be forced by removing choices. Every person, especially the EMS-disabled, should have access to fiber-based /wired broadband. The 5G rollover was done with our money & without our consent.

[Cindy Kortlever, June 2, 2022](#)

Please stop the buildout of more towers and infrastructure now so that people like me can escape to rural areas (the only places we can feel normal and well again) and invest money in creating hardwired schools and public spaces.

[Jennifer Manzler, June 1, 2022](#)

Prioritize fiber to the premises (FTTP) solutions. The goal should be to bring fiber as close to the user as possible, to use a copper tail for short distances where necessary, and to resort to wireless technology as a last resort.

[Manuela Seitz-Hipkins May 31, 2022](#)

As someone who suffers from a wide variety of sensitivities, I urge the FCC to take into consideration all those with EMS and keep fiber first when doing the vital work of providing everyone with broadband services. Please always prioritize “fiber to the premises (FTTP)” solutions. The FCC should rely on fixed wireless only when fully wired is technically or economically infeasible, keeping the main purpose of mobile wireless as supporting mobility--not to be a substitute for wired fixed arrangements. Please also consider allowing for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband so that they may maintain equal access to technology as well. Thank you for ensuring everyone can safely make use of the technology we all need to participate in our current electronic society.

[Aleks Kosowicz May 30, 2022](#)

I am writing today to advocate for fiber to the premises (FTTP) solutions. The goal should be to bring fiber as close to the user as possible and to resort to wireless technology as a last resort. People who are RF-sensitive, especially those with EMS disabilities, must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[Karol Olson, June 6, 2022](#)

While studies are still being conducted in this area, we know enough to use caution - since the long-term effects won't likely be known for many years. I am asking the FCC to protect our children - the future generation - through the use of fiber-based broadband, as opposed to running the risk of harming Americans by promoting wireless connectivity.

[Julie Ann Blowers, June 17, 2022](#)

Wired (fiber-based) broadband should be the preferred mode of broadband delivery and to finally recognize the need for special measures to address the electromagnetic sensitivity (EMS) disabled community.

[William Brobeil, June 17, 2022](#)

I must express my concern and demand for the option of wired broadband not only for the EMF DISABLED but for all those involved given the known risks of exposure.

[Roy Monsour, June 1, 2022](#)

The FCC should always prioritize “fiber to the premises (FTTP)” solutions. FTTP is the installation of optical fiber directly to individual homes, multi-dwelling units, schools, municipal buildings and businesses to provide high-speed broadband access. The FCC should rely on fixed wireless only when fully wired is technically or economically infeasible. The main purpose of mobile wireless is to support mobility, not to be a substitute for wired fixed arrangements. Those who are RF-sensitive and especially those



with EMS disabilities must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[Dr. Carol Taccetta, June 17, 2022](#)

## **THE NEED FOR ACCOMMODATION OF EMS DISABLED TO FULFILL PROMISE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

Some 62.16 percent advocated that the EMS Disabled be accommodated with fiber to the premises and wireless-free zones.

There must be an allowance for RF-free safe zones in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband. Discriminating against vulnerable populations, such as those with EMS, is unconscionable and is not consistent with the goal of achieving diversity, equity and inclusion. I urge you to do everything in your power to halt any further discussion of expanding wireless services, recognize this specific problem and take special measures that are within your regulatory authority.

[Brent Rudolph, June 8, 2022](#)

Yes to access for everyone, but it must be #fiberfirst [t]o protect the health of the vulnerable. We oppose the cheaper, wireless rollout which emits toxic radiation 24/7. Medical literature has shown it to cause a variety of neurological and cognitive symptoms, oxidative stress, metabolic, hormonal and sleep disruptions among many other serious adverse reactions. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[Erica Comerford, June 27, 2022](#)

There have to be WiFi/Cell and “smart” free zones set up as accommodations for people who are ElectroSensitive-Aware, ES-Injured, and ES-Sensitive. I believe I have been injured by being in a 2021 car purchased for newly driving family members, so cars also need to be able to be purchased that can be fully disconnected from Bluetooth, WIFI, Hotspots, and Cellular Data. The same will have to be true for train and airplane travel. I believe that forcing RF radiation exposure – even as part of a genuine effort to afford broadband access – is itself a form of discrimination as a matter of law. More importantly, it is fundamentally inequitable because it leads to great harm: people with severe symptoms are functionally excluded from public participation since almost all public spaces are flooded with RF, and those with wireless facilities nearby cannot even take refuge in their own homes. Please do all you can to enable fully WIRED

TECHNOLOGY for all places, private and public, including Schools, Libraries, Hospitals, Universities, and more. This is a CRUCIAL matter to very many people. Thank you.

[Martha Glaser, June 9, 2022](#)

There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband. Discriminating against vulnerable populations, such as those with EMS, is unconscionable and is not consistent with the goal of achieving diversity, equity and inclusion.

[Erik Harper, June 7, 2022](#)

People who are RF-sensitive, especially those with EMS disabilities, must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being.

[Carlos Ralat, May 30, 2022](#)

I believe that forcing RF radiation exposure – even as part of a genuine effort to afford broadband access – is itself a form of discrimination as a matter of law. More importantly, it is fundamentally inequitable because it leads to great harm. People with severe symptoms are functionally excluded from public participation since almost all public spaces are flooded with RF, and those with wireless facilities nearby cannot even take refuge in their own homes.

[Miriam Eckenfels-Garcia, May 27, 2022](#)

I’m urging you to formally recognize electromagnetic sensitivity and set a firm precedent whereby high speed wired connections are the preferred means of installation.

[Michael Kaminsky, June 17, 2022](#)

People who are RF-sensitive, especially those with EMS disabilities, must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[George and Donna Machen, June 7, 2022](#)

I [] plead with the FCC to make accommodations for EMS-disabled citizens by creating and including ‘wireless-free zones’ in public places.

[Melia James, June 1, 2022](#)

Please have schools and daycares use fiber/wire for internet and not WiFi. The EMF levels in classrooms where children are for 7 hours a day are so high! They need to be protected from the range of symptoms that can come with EMF sensitivity.

[Jennifer, May 30, 2022](#)

Discriminating against vulnerable populations, such as those with EMS, is unconscionable and is not consistent with the goal of achieving diversity, equity and inclusion. I urge the FCC to do everything in its power to halt any further discussion of expanding wireless services, recognize this specific problem and take special measures that are within its duty/regulatory authority to effectively address it.

[Julie Ranieri, May 30, 2022](#)

The FCC should always prioritize “fiber to the premises (FTTP)” solutions. FTTP is the installation of optical fiber directly to individual homes, multi-dwelling units, schools, municipal buildings and businesses to provide high-speed broadband access. The FCC should rely on fixed wireless only when fully wired is technically or economically infeasible. The main purpose of mobile wireless is to support mobility, not to be a substitute for wired fixed arrangements. Those who are RF-sensitive and especially those with EMS disabilities must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[Erik Harper, June 7, 2022](#)

People who are RF-sensitive, especially those with EMS disabilities, must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. I urge the FCC to do everything in its power to recognize this specific problem and take special measures that are within its duty/regulatory authority to effectively address it.

[Paul Rauh, June 17, 2022](#)

It is fundamentally inequitable because it leads to great harm: people with severe symptoms are functionally excluded from public participation since almost all public spaces are flooded with RF, and those with wireless facilities nearby cannot even take refuge in their own homes. It should be enough that people don’t want to be exposed to RF pollution with unknown harms. I am left wondering if my family’s health problems are caused or worsened by all the RF pollution, and we can’t opt out even to test whether it makes a difference.

[Kari Olsen, June 02, 2022](#)

This technology is making millions of Americans sick, and it is past time that it be recognized and addressed. I applaud the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) initial effort to place emphasis on “harms experienced by historically excluded and marginalized communities” and the desire for “meaningful policy reforms and systems improvements, as well as a framework for collaborative action to extend digital opportunity to everyone. There must be an allowance for RF-free safe zones in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[Greg Fedak, June 1, 2022](#)

Discriminating against vulnerable populations, such as those with EMS, is unconscionable and is not consistent with the goal of achieving “diversity, equity and inclusion.” I urge the FCC to do everything in its power to halt any further discussion of expanding wireless services, recognize this specific problem and take special measures that are within its duty/regulatory authority to effectively address it.

[Kitt E Stevens, June 27, 2022](#)

There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[Angela Dicianno, June 6, 2022](#)

I am an EMS disabled individual who would like to make it known that broadband/hardwired internet should be available, accessible, and the norm and having WiFi free zones, workspaces and SCHOOLS needs to happen. My son has an insanely enormous WiFi tower on his schools property. This can't be what children have to have. This can't be what is happening. Everything is being harmed by this.

[Patience Pecoraro-Nead, June 1, 2022](#)

We cannot commit to stakeholder expectations nor our mission statements without safe places for EMS people, I feel that is including myself. My workplace is a place for alleged healing and EMS people have a right to be protected as do staff and visitors. Transparency is key. People first then things then money. Your entire plans will go south when too many people are sick from your lack of due process. Thank you for taking these matters seriously and involving and including experts in matters like this.

[Sam Filer, Don Hall, June 1, 2022](#)

Many people's lives are being destroyed by the mass use of RF. The FCC “acceptable limits” are not based on biological effects, only thermal. Most countries have far lower limits. These EMFs can eventually cause permanent disability and leave a person with no means of participating in society. We need access to safe, wired technology and wi-fi free zones in public spaces. And you must stop putting wireless transponders into things that come into our homes that we cannot escape. I have Direct TV and even though it is completely hard-wired, there is a powerful transponder within the receiver that is impossible to shut off that makes me very dizzy and unable to concentrate. It took years to find out why I couldn't be near it. Many more items, like appliances, will soon contain these for Smart Homes, making life impossible, so we'll have to live without many staple items we've enjoyed since the beginning of the Industrial Age. The only reason it is being done is for money and profit, but the welfare of the people must come first.

[Beckie Takacs, June 1, 2022](#)

EMS is a real problem making people sick and disabled. There should [] be wireless free zones in public areas. This technology emits a toxin that significantly impacts the brain and other organs, triggering disabling headaches, ‘brain fog,’ vertigo, difficulty sleeping, skin rashes and a host of other symptoms. We should not ignore EMS because it is a

health threat to all of us including animals. There should be guidelines and safety measures and warnings for the public.

[Nancy Bender, June 1, 2022](#)

People who are RF-sensitive, especially those with EMS disabilities, must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Individuals who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

[Fariha Husain, May 27, 2022](#)

### **EMS DISABLED – IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

65.17 percent of the commenters stated they suffered from EMS disability or their family members and/or friends experienced symptoms of Electromagnetic Sensitivity. Their stories are compelling, and they cry for acceptance, equity, inclusion and relief from their suffering. In their own words:

I am a teacher and recently had to change schools due to reactions I was having from 2 cell towers put up in a community park right next to the school I work at. These towers are within 150 meters from my classroom. I understand the demand for better connectivity for the public but at what cost. I have experienced headaches, dizziness, brain fog, memory loss, and rash since in the classroom I am leaving this year. I also have students complain about headaches daily. Please look into the harmful effects these towers and the wifi in the classrooms may have on the teachers and students.

[Cheri Rose, June 1, 2022](#)

I am someone who has been diagnosed with Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS). This happened to me about 5 years ago when a SmartMeter was installed outside my bedroom window and I became very sick, unable to sleep at night (waking every hour suddenly), nerve pain, numbness, and cramping in my hand every time I held my cell phone, terrible tinnitus in my ears, anxiety and headaches, and nerve pain in my entire body. I have spent the past few years and a lot of money taking mitigation measure in my own home (hard wiring with ethernet connections, installing silver fabric screens over walls and windows, and purchasing shields to protect my body from the harmful wireless radiation waves) in addition to not using a cell phone except in emergencies and staying out of public wifi places. I have a difficult time even being in close proximity to someone using a newer stronger 5G compatible phone. Please recognize this condition that is making people sick and affecting more and more Americans every day because of the density of wireless radiation in our country and the proliferation of 4G/5G towers in our communities.

[Jennifer Manzler, June 1, 2022](#)

As a nurse with a diverse background of clinical experience, I, along with 3500 members of our group, "citizens for 5g awareness" are imploring you to take into account the disabilities and adverse symptoms that are a direct result of involuntary wireless radiation exposure, and act to remove and reduce cell panels, towers, and other impacting technology that is at fault along with the companies that have allowed this to continue. I myself have developed debilitating PVC's and subsequent weakening of the ventricles of the heart after a small cell was constructed down the block from my home. While it has severely impacted my life, I want to use the opportunity to educate and advocate on behalf of myself, others going through similar experiences, and those who do not yet have symptoms but soon very well may, as exposure continues unchecked.

[Sara Lobato, June 1, 2022](#)

Because of where I live, I must use a 5g device from T-Mobile. This device when turned on, within minutes induces headaches, ear ringing, and nausea to name a few. I can't work from home or connect to the outside world with this.

[Jason Diponio, June 1, 2022](#)

I am EMS-disabled. My symptoms started "years ago" & long before I even knew what EMS meant or was. The roll-out of 5G has literally, physically sickened me to the point that in the near future I will be forced to barely leave my home. I suffer from nausea, sometimes extreme, headaches, sometimes "stabbing" headaches while traveling past cell towers, tingling in my brain, tinnitus, difficulty sleeping at night, rapid heartbeat & now joint pain in hips & hands when exposed to WiFi in public places where I'm shopping including but not limited to: COSTCO (bad symptoms) Whole Foods (bad symptoms), Folsom City Zoo (they added new antennas inside zoo!), Church, Crunch Fitness, 24 Hour Fitness, my car dealership for service (WiFi antennas everywhere), coffee shops & even movie theaters! I feel like my life has been stolen from me. I was very active in Church, Gym, regular movie goer, restaurants, Folsom and Sacramento City Zoo memberships and much more. I believe in my local city economy which I've supported until recently. Since the roll-out of 5G approx 3+ months ago, I've been robbed of enjoying church, movies (gone to movies 60 yrs---a passion), and if gym is crowded I have to leave. I no longer attend Church & this is extremely upsetting to me! I'm even being Wii's from all my neighbors, their devices & antennas on houses in my neighborhood! I want to move somewhere where my body can heal & be away from all the electro-smog that I'm convinced will ultimately kill me based on how badly I feel at times. I have been "an above average" active person & exercised "above average" my entire life starting in elementary school. This has been extremely difficult! I've spent over \$14k for modifications in my home (prior to 5G) only to have my 5G neighbors infringe on my living space that is difficult again. Prior home modifications don't stand a chance with 5G! I have to sleep in the living room since my bedroom is too close to my neighbors 5G bedrooms & devices. I'm a 24x7 care-giver and conservator to my low-functioning special needs sister who suffers alongside me. This is so unfair to her since she doesn't understand what's happening to her. In her behalf, I am submitting another comment. I am no longer an active member of society & the government has failed to protect me & my sister (entire population actually) against harmful radiation! For that I



am appalled. Thank you for taking this seriously & for working on a resolution for EMS-disabled people!

[Debbie Trublood, June 27, 2022](#)

As a person extremely sensitive to radiation from WiFi and cell towers I was driven from my home when a cell tower was built close to our property as resulting severe headaches and neurological complaints completely disabled me. I implore the FCC to take what EMS has done to a growing segment of the community seriously and offer protection from indiscriminate radiation.

[Lia Langston, June 1, 2022](#)

My partner has experienced headaches, brain fog, and drowsiness in the presence of high electromagnetic frequencies. We first realized this when his cell phone was on in a 2011 Prius. Problems were exacerbated when he bought a plug-in Prius which he was forced to trade in. We believe many drowsy drivers and car crashes may be created by use of EMF technologies without protection.

[Noalani Terry, June 1, 2022](#)

I have electromagnetic sensitivity, and have experienced the nightmare of being assaulted on a 24-7 basis by wireless radiation from utilities and neighbors I cannot control, in my own home. We must curb the reckless, unchecked agency of the telecom industry to place harmful cell towers and repeaters in close proximity to our living and sleeping spaces. I am not thriving and have continued health challenges due to the ever increasing exposure to constant radiation in my home, despite my best efforts to minimize my own contribution to the mess.

[Haw-Bin Chai, June 1, 2022](#)

I am one of the up to 30% of people who are sensitive to EMS and I request that you find a way to eliminate digital discrimination for the EMS disabled. We need to be able to participate in society and be safe in our own homes. Thank you.

[Jane Carlson, June 1, 2022](#)

I have been suffering from EHS for several years. I noticed heart palpitations, head pain, anxiety, loss of words, confusion on several occasions in 2018. They happened when I was using cell phones in the car. They happened when I was in proximity to a hotspot and wifi laptops. They happened when I tried using a Roku streaming player. They happened when I was upstairs from my tenant's "smart" meter, and I have paid PG&E to have that meter removed from my rental as it's been off my own home. I saw a cardiologist and other doctors who ruled out other serious problems. The symptoms continued and persist when I am in a building with wifi and with people using cell phones, even when I drive my kids to school and back. When I pass a cell tower, I feel a stabbing pain in my temple. I can only be outdoors and stay far away from people on their phones. We have a wired router and ethernet cords to our computers at home, and use a landline, no cell phone. This problem is huge, and I dread having to go to public places like the store, the library, and doctors' offices. It is a real problem learning how to live and cope. Only because I

am, sadly, meeting more and more people who have similar experiences do I feel like this has got to change.

[Martha Glaser, June 9, 2022](#)

I am an EMS person and I have family members who are as well. We have the right to be free of this ever present, non stop radiation.

[Constanza Abrams, June 1, 2022](#)

I was diagnosed with EM Hypersensitivity in 2016, while living in a home immediately adjacent to two cell phone towers. This acute EMF exposure has permanently altered my life, ability to function, work, travel, and everything else. I have a long-standing neurologic disease, which was never a major issue in my life before, but which was brought out of remission by living next to the cell towers. I became so ill, that my family was forced to move to a new home. In addition to my disease coming out of remission, I developed debilitating symptoms of aggravated nerve pain, migraines, heart arrhythmias, global inflammation, and several other health issues. I now have to severely limit my wireless EMF exposure for extended periods of time, in order to live a decent quality of life or be able to raise my children; and every time I don't do this, I become very ill again. Please don't deny this issue. I knew nothing about the harm from wireless radiation before my own condition developed, but now I KNOW wireless EMFs are damaging to all people--most especially those of us with body constitutions who are sensitive to these harmful radio waves. There are many of us who are literally becoming allergic to the modern world because of wireless EMFs everywhere, and it is terrifying to not have a place to go for safety where we can live normal, productive lives as people, parents, employees, etc. We deserve fair and equal treatment for our disabilities and our suffering. Thank you for your help with this most important and life-altering matter.

[Melia James, June 1, 2022](#)

As an EMF-sensitive individual and concerned RN I urge the FCC to ensure rigorous safety studies of 5G and other wireless technologies and protections for vulnerable people.

[Sheliah Roth, June 1, 2022](#)

4G and 5G has wreaked havoc on so many people I know, their children, animals, livestock and even plants/trees. Although I'm fortunate and am not constantly exposed to the 5G radiation, when I am exposed, I get incredibly sick. Please do not put any more of these towers up. They are a huge detriment to ALL living things.

[Abby Fredericksen, June 17, 2022](#)

Please look out for the citizens and stop the EMF signals in our neighborhoods! This is affecting our health. Headaches, dizziness and the feeling of unwell. We believe the future health of our children is at stake as well neurologically.

[P Stringer, Jun 17, 2022](#)

As is well known, EMF is the name given by the U.S. Access Board to the condition whereby individuals exposed to radio-frequency (RF) radiation from smartphones, WiFi,



cell towers, smart meters and other wireless devices experience adverse health effects or worsening of existing health conditions. I am someone who is within the population where it is estimated that up to 30% of the U.S. population – almost 99 million people – suffer at least mild symptoms after exposure to RF radiation, and for some, wireless exposure is the direct cause of, or at least a major contributing factor to, the impairment. This technology is making millions of Americans sick, and it is past time that it be recognized and addressed.

[Julie Ranieri, May 30, 2022](#)

I am troubled by the news that we are forced to endure 5g everywhere we go. I am bothered when I am around 5g and have had health problems as a result. This onslaught needs to stop and the putting up of cell towers everywhere must be stopped as well.

[Karen Jones, June 1, 2022](#)

Thank you for taking time [] to hear someone who had severe headaches, nausea, trouble going to and staying (a)sleep, loud ringing in my ears so I don't hear people talking, have trouble keeping focused due to the pain, severe rashes, memory loss so severe I have to write down what I'm doing so I can finish tasks. There's more suffering from radiation poisoning from emf/emr wifi, smart meters (our apartments put 4 smart meters on each building) in between our bedroom windows so we ALL are drowned in it.

[Jerri Magruder, June 23, 2022](#)

As someone with EMS, I have spent thousands of dollars working to protect myself as best I can in my home and when I go out into the community. I get heart palpitations and other symptoms when exposed to RF (wireless) technology and so try to minimize my exposure.

[Bibi Caspari, June 21, 2022](#)

EMS sensitivity is real. I know many people who have it and many more who don't consciously realize it yet. But more and more people are recognizing and making changes. It's time for the FCC to do the job it was designed to do and protect people. You can't imagine the changes you can make so let me help. Imagine leaving to a place without 5G and losing an inch to your waistline within 24 hours because 5G affects our digestive systems...Imagine sitting to watch TV and having heart palpitations...Imagine joining a Zoom call with video and having your brain on fire...these are just a few real life scenarios that could happen to you. Make a change before you are its next victim.

[Kelly Gunkel, June 17, 2022](#)

Electromagnetic sensitivity (EMS) is the name given by the U.S. Access Board to the condition whereby individuals exposed to radiofrequency (RF) radiation from smartphones, WiFi, cell towers, smart meters and other wireless devices experience adverse health effects or worsening of existing health conditions. Estimates indicate that up to 30% of the U.S. population – almost 99 million people – suffer at least mild symptoms after exposure to RF radiation, and for some, wireless exposure is the direct cause of, or at least a major contributing factor to, the impairment. This technology is

making millions of Americans sick, and it is past time that it be recognized and addressed.

[Eileen Gale, June 3, 2022](#)

I, too, am affected by wireless transmissions. My home is etherneted and I paid to have the wifi meters for electric and gas meters removed from my home. However, my part of town is filled with towers. I get headaches and feel intense levels of anxiety, teeth gnashing, etc. around modems on wifi. I take Excedrin everyday for the headaches, a mystery the Doc's can't account for. Please stop expanding the tower installations and ethernet, cable or hardwire the transmissions from now forward and plan to retrofit the existing towered areas!

[Allene Avey, June 1, 2022](#)

After a few hours in close proximity to these technologies I have experienced severe and worsening physical pain, so much so that it interferes with my ability to work. While having access to internet and cellular technologies is important, it is also important to have the option to opt out of having looming technological threats implanted in our communities. Thanks for your time.

[Charles Braddock, June 1, 2022](#)

After many years, I had to leave a big City of New York and move to CT due to severe health issues caused by RF that is all over the NYC. And a few years later, I've come to find out that once safe areas of CT without any notice got to install "death towers" aka cell towers. Making me sick every time I pass by one with no way to escape. I ask FCC to act on their sworn due in protecting We, the People.

[Vira M., June 1, 2022](#)

EMF sickness is real. I have had issues with the WiFi causing me heart arrhythmias. We should be allowed to say No to the cell towers built outside our home. This is causing real illness!

[Kimberly Crawford, June 1, 2022](#)

Wireless technology does cause real discomfort and physical harm / side effects to the electromagnetically sensitive, a legitimate subset of the population. Our family, except for one member, has this sensitivity. To this end, robust, safe FiOs/wired fast internet should be made available to all Americans, a very reasonable accommodation.

[M Lynn, June 1, 2022](#)

I have been suffering from emf sensitivities for 30 years. When the smart meters came out, I became anxious and had heart palpitations which caused me to go on beta blockers. This was 12 years ago. When WiFi came out, my condition got worse to where I now have daily headaches. We are talking migraines here along with dizziness and more heart palpitations. Cell towers cause me to be more sensitive to EMFs with the above symptoms increased, hard to eat without taking pepto-bismol because of the terribly nervous stomach. Please consider all the people who are now becoming sensitive to EMFs like me. We don't need these symptoms, nor do we need WiFi. Cell phones can

also cause the above problems as I cannot use one as it starts a headache immediately if I get too close to one.

[Joyce Soos, June 1, 2022](#)

I am filing on behalf of my low-functioning special needs sister. She also suffers from EMS. She has rapid heartbeat when we're in a buildings, stores, churches, gyms, movie theaters & even City Zoo's with WiFi, 5G and antennas everywhere! The biggest "clue" to me is she goes through behavioral changes. She is easily "agitated" & very moody when over-exposed to WiFi. She has been stripped of what little independence she had. I trained her to scan self checkout groceries but since implementation of 5G we both light up like firecrackers and can no longer go through self check outs anymore. The 2 worse ones are COSTCO and Whole Foods! This has also taken the joy away from my sister who took pride & felt like she was contributing with such a simple task as scanning groceries at check out. She LOVES Church and the gym and visits lots of friends & doesn't understand why we're not attending Church anymore (she's in tears when I tell her no to church), can't go to movies (we used to go 2-4x per month pre-pandemic) and just started going back to movies recently (but now we can't with 5G and entire audience with cell phones on & our symptoms start). My heart literally breaks for all the special needs & autistic communities whose "behavioral issues" are written off by doctors, teachers & possibly some parents who are naive to the fact the EMS exists! In many cases, these innocent souls are given destructive medications to "calm them down" when in-fact a majority of their symptoms are probably due to over-exposure of EMF's, WiFi, 5G, antennas in their homes, workplaces and schools and NOT THEIR FAULTS! I can and will testify to this fact as 24x7 care-given to my low functioning, low communication skills sister. I'm heartbroken to watch her struggle with her brain & quizzically look to me for answers as to what is happening to her physically since she can't communicate her pain to me! It's horrible to watch and endure! As most special needs parents can probably testify to, "behavioral issues" can be "them" trying to "process" (but can't in ways that we can) of the pain (both physical & emotional) that they're experiencing. (Side note: I believe wholeheartedly that Road Rage & all the unnecessary media in brand new cars contributes to Road Rage & behavioral issues in "normal people" that I witness on a daily basis as vehicles also are a source of overexposure to WiFi, EMF's!) Please help all these innocent souls & provide safe havens, education on EMS to entire nation, doctors, teachers, care-givers etc., but especially to special needs, disabled, autistic organizations. Some of these innocent souls have no voices to help them & are written off by people who should be (but are not) looking out for their needs and could care less! Thank you for addressing this urgent matter!

[Debbie Trublood \(sister/conservator\) on behalf of Lori Trublood](#)

## CONCLUSION

The filed comments overwhelmingly indicate support for the two major points and specific suggestions made in the initial Comments by Advocates for the EMS Disabled. The Commission should embrace them as well.

The Commission should always prioritize “fiber to the premise” solutions and rely on mobile or fixed wireless only when fully wired is technically or economically infeasible or the main purpose is mobility. Those who are RF-sensitive and especially those with EMS disabilities must be allowed equal access to broadband in a form that does not threaten or worsen their health and well-being. They should be able to obtain fiber to the premises as a matter of right. There must be an allowance for RF-free “safe zones” in public spaces and buildings to ensure inclusion in public life. Those who cannot be around RF must have the ability, as a matter of right, to obtain wired (fiber-based) broadband.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/  
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The following groups and individuals have granted permission to counsel to submit these Reply Comments on their behalf under the name of “Advocates for the EMS Disabled”:

Susan Foster, Medical Writer, Fire & Utility Consultant; Odette J. Wilkens, President & General Counsel, Wired Broadband, Inc.; Frank Clegg, (formerly, President of Microsoft Canada), Canadians for Safe Technology; Kent Chamberlin, PhD, Former member of the NH Commission to Study The Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology; Californians for Safe Technology; Julie Levine, 5G Free California; Coloradans for Safe Technology; Larry Ortega, Community Union, Inc.; Paska Nayden, Connecticut for Responsible Technology; Ms. Eva Bortnick; Howard Goodman, Esq.; Safe Technology Minnesota; 5G Free Rhode Island; ; Napa Neighborhood For Safe Technology; Massachusetts for Safe Technology; New Hampshire for Safe Technology; New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech; Pennsylvanians for Safe Technology; Stephen R. Dahl, Director, Rhode Islanders for Safe Technology; Safe Tech International; Sidnee Cox, Windsor, CA; Safe Tech for Santa Rosa; Virginians for Safe Technology; Mark Wahl, Director, Citizen League Encouraging Awareness of Radiation of Whidbey Island, WA; Lendri Purcell, President, FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety); Ms. Linda Dance, Engineer; Lex Kisteneff, CEO & Founder, The South Carolina Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards; mocoSafeG.org in Montgomery County, MD; Kirstin Beatty, Director, Last Tree

Laws Massachusetts, Holyoke, MA; Josh Hart, Director, StopSmartMeters.org; Pittsfield Cell Tower Injured and Concerned Citizens; Liberty Goodwin, Director, Toxics Information Project (TIP); Richard Thom; Tracey Roizman, DC, Asheville, NC; Hank Allen, Idahoans for Safe Technology; Margaret Phillips, MA, MPH; Flo Mitchell Kosik; Grace Shen, Physical Therapist; Shawn Hutchens, CEO of Green Fields Trading Co Inc., Lake Station, Indiana; Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB); Maine Coalition to Stop Smart Meters; William Now, Carmichael, CA; Barbara Payne, President, Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation (EPIC); Keldwyn Teves, Artist & Writer, Fletcher, NC; Janet FitzGerald, Sharon MA; Patricia Burke, EHS Disabled, Journalist/Advocate, Millis, Massachusetts; Monique Maisenhalter, SWORT Board Member, SW Ohio for Responsible Technology; Nancy Perlman, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Diane Douglas, Licensed Occupational Therapist, Fairview, NC; Sharon Behn, Arden, NC; Tais Howard LAC, MAOM, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM); Natalie Sadler, MD, Holistic Psychiatry; Nancy Van Dover BA, DVM, OMD, Dipl Acup; Cynthia Franklin, Director, Consumers for Safe Cell Phones; Andrea Mercier, Mother; Cheri Jensen; Mark Graham, Keep Cell Towers Away, Elk Grove, CA; Michael Muadin, President of AMRA, Alliance for Microwave Radiation Accountability, Inc., East Chatham, New York; Malibu For Safe Tech; Shannon Shine, Rocky Mountains for Safe Technology; Ann K. Friday, Relocate the Cell Tower Group, Prescott, AZ; Stephanie Thomas, Phoebe Ann Thomas Sorgen (Co-Founder), Soula Culver, Sarah Aminoff, Meaveen O'Conner, Sandy Nixon, Connie Anderson, Members, WiRED, Berkeley, CA; Luanne Moore, Boynton Beach, FL; Glen Ellyn VHP, Glen Ellyn, IL; Debra Green, Safe Tech Hawaii, Kihei, Hawaii; Shane Riley, 5G Free Oregon, Portland, OR; Keep Oregon for Safer Technology; Ellen Marks, California Brain Tumor Association, Indian Wells, CA; Frederick P. Sinclair, Jr., Alfred, NY; Cynthia Rahav, Berkeley, CA; Susan Jennings, SW Pennsylvania for Safe Technology, Mount Pleasant, PA; Lisa C. Smith, Safe Tech Tucson, Tucson, AZ; Linda Smith, EMF Wellness Tucson, Tucson, AZ; Scott Tips, President & General Counsel, National Health Federation.

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