

## **The Telecom Industry Has Dictated What We Need For Far Too Long; It's Time to Switch The Conversation.**

Imagine coming home from work one day and finding a powerful wireless transmitter plonked down in front of your home. If H.R. 3557 passes, the likelihood of this horrendous infrastructure being placed in your neighborhood will go up exponentially. Possibly right in front of your home and without any recourse! Why? Because this bill strips all local government control, which is the only thin line of defense, to protect communities from irresponsibly placed wireless infrastructure.

### **Rules & Laws Already Pro-Industry**

The powerful telecom industry has guaranteed their success by using their tyrannical power and deep pockets to create laws, circumvent public protections, purchase the allegiance of our elected representatives, and has hypnotized all of us into believing that the wireless industry is the only hope for ending the digital divide. It's time to change that conversation!

In 2018 the FCC adopted rules that streamline and speed the deployment of wireless infrastructure. Since then, representatives of the industry have been hoodwinking state legislators into passing laws to further speed the process. But even though currently telecommunications equipment is being deployed across the country at neck breaking speeds, it's not fast enough for the industry. Last Spring over 90 broadband bills were introduced into Congress. Of these, 6 bills will jeopardize national security, 3 will jeopardize local government control, and 4 will allow wireless carriers access to the \$42 billion funding set aside by the NTIA for high-speed, futureproof, superior fiber to the premises (FTTP).

The most egregious of these bills is H.R. 3557. HR 3557 combined 19 bills into one bill entitled, [the American Broadband Act of 2023](#). The name is meant to disarm you, but don't be fooled. This bill alone will give far broader powers to an industry that already wields brazen authority over local zoning officials, preventing them from protecting their communities from recklessly placed RF radiation infrastructure in our neighborhoods, close to our homes.

Local governments, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), and the Georgia Municipal Association, as well as many grassroots and community groups oppose this federal overreach. But so far, our legislators are asleep at the wheel.

### **Unconstitutional**

H.R. 3557 violates U.S. Constitutional provisions and the Bill of Rights. The bill takes private property without adequate compensation, appropriates state and local property for the benefit of telecom, facilitates invasions of privacy as well as government and corporate surveillance in violation of numerous state laws protecting consumer privacy.

And according to Attorney Andrew Campanelli, *"This bill does everything to strip all local authority away from local governments; all of it. They will have no power. Cities, counties, towns, villages, and even states will have zero power to regulate in any way the placement of wireless facilities on public or private property, if this bill becomes law. That's why this is the most deceptive, insidious, and quite frankly, evil legislation I have ever seen in 30 years."*

## **The Secret the Telecom Industry Doesn't Want you to Know**

In the 1990's the telecom industry was granted public funding for FTTP, through fees included in our phone bills. They promised that they would use this funding to replace the Country's aging copper wires. This would have given the U.S. state-of-the-art broadband and would have placed us as global leaders in high-speed internet, broadband access. Instead, they took this public funding and used it to fund their inferior, "unregulated" wireless infrastructure. Then they used a disinformation campaign to make Americans believe that wireless was our only broadband choice. But according to the NTIA, wireless should only be used for broadband in the rare instance that wired fiber cannot.

It's also well documented that the industry has red-lined areas they deem to have inadequate Return on Investment. This digital redlining and the misappropriation of funds have caused the digital divide. And the industry answer? Another telecom handout to fix the problem they created.

### **What Can You Do?**

Make your voice heard at every level – municipal, state and federal. Ask your mayor to reach out to state leaders. Ask state leaders to contact federal leaders. Contact your Congressman and Senators. Spread the word. Your rights, your privacy and your land are at risk.

Jodi Nelson

Member of The National Call for Safe Technology