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October 1, 2019

The Honorable Alex Andrade  
Florida House of Representatives  
1401 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: 5G

Dear Representative Andrade,

We discussed the proliferation of 5G small cell applications in Pensacola and health concerns, adverse impact on home values and subcontracting practices by wireless corporations. Since then, you sent a letter to lobbyists asking them to meet with City representatives. Also, since then, two 40-foot 5G poles were installed in the downtown Pensacola – without permits!

As to health, 5G will utilize higher levels of radiation at higher frequencies. The higher frequencies will require network densification unlike anything we have seen before and wireless carriers are hell-bent on deploying an unprecedented number of 5G cell poles in our neighborhoods. We conveyed our health concerns and provided you the basis for our concerns to include a long-term independent study from the National Institute of Health and various peer-reviewed journal articles. There is growing concern about the health impacts of increased non-ionizing radio frequency radiation from this “unprecedented” wireless build-up.

As to property values, nobody wants a cell tower near their home. A survey of 1,000 people by the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy revealed 94 percent of the respondents would be negatively impacted in their interest to purchase a property with a cell tower or antenna and the price they would be willing to pay for it, and 79 percent said under no circumstance would they purchase or rent a property within a few blocks of a cell tower. There has been pushback against the onslaught of 5G cell towers from coast-to-coast, and realtors and appraisers are equally concerned. “People don’t like living next to cell towers, for medical reasons or aesthetics,” a real estate broker was quoted. The concern is even more acute with 5G because of the higher frequencies and unprecedented densification. Hopeful sellers in our neighborhood are concerned the proposed pole on 19<sup>th</sup> and Jackson will adversely influence potential buyers. Some homeowners are hesitant to invest in renovations because of the blight caused by the planned 5G small cell pole.

As to subcontracting, Verizon has been a horrible neighbor. I witnessed their “low-road” subcontracting firsthand when Verizon subcontractors trespassed on private property and claimed they had the authority to do so so long as they didn’t disturb anything. The workers couldn’t provide any employer identification or state certification credentials to conduct a

survey. They only left when the police were about to be called. A subcontracting supervisor in Dallas then provided unsatisfactory explanations resembling timeworn talking points from the wireless industry.

A city's primary asset is its locally controlled public right-of-way. The State, with the Small Cell Statute, F.S. 337.401(7) stripped cities of the ability to properly govern this publicly funded asset. Accordingly, I ask you to introduce legislation that would rescind Florida's Small Cell Statute.

I also ask you to request that the Department of Health study and report on the health and environmental impacts of 5G. It is apparent most citizens are unaware of what is happening with 5G. 5G will use various frequencies up to 24 GHz, with plans to potentially run up to 300 GHz. These high frequencies will require a 5G cell pole or facility to be sited every 8 to 10 homes. The focus of the study should be on the potential health risks associated with 5G technology, particularly children. This was most recently done in New Hampshire, with S.B. 522. Such a study would be in line with calls from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and many others, to examine the effects of RF radiation on children. "The differences in bone density and the amount of fluid in a child's brain compared to an adult's brain could allow children to absorb greater amounts of RF energy deeper into their brains than adults. It is essential that any new standards for ... wireless devices be based on protecting the most vulnerable populations to ensure they are safeguarded through their lifetimes," according to this group of 60,00 pediatricians.

Also, please ask the Department of Health to develop best wireless practices for schools. While scientists, biologists and health experts may disagree on the risks and adverse health impacts associated with 5G, the industry continues to push hard for everything it wants – "wireless network densification and ... [an] unprecedented number of cell sites." In our neighborhood, a 5G cell pole is proposed 15-feet from a neighbor's home. We have children, and we are worried that should this technology be proven hazardous, the health of our children is at risk. The Federal Communications Commission is applying wireless radiation safety standards from the nineties. Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration has told the wireless carriers to conduct and fund independent research into adverse health impacts of wireless radiation, but the wireless industry simply is not doing it. Accordingly, I believe a precautionary approach is appropriate.

Please ask the Department of Health to develop practices to reduce and limit WiFi exposure in our schools and advise schools of practices such as (1) have children use wired devices where practical, (2) place wireless devices on desks to serve as a barrier, (3) position the head as far away from laptop screens (where antennas are) as practicable, and (4) shut down wireless routers when not in use. I'm sure there's more, and as we learn about the risks of this new technology there will continue to be more. Thank you for considering our concerns and requests.

Sincerely,

/S/  
John Herron

/S/  
Eve Herron