

July 9, 2020

Dear Mayor Fleetwood and Members of the City Council,

We are sending you this open letter, available to the public through various venues, as an attempt to be heard on an issue of vital importance. We hope to be allies going forward as this will surely affect all our families equally. We are referring to what is currently the unbridled proliferation of wireless microwave radiation emitting technologies (i.e. through small cells and other towers) that are being installed throughout Whatcom County on cell towers, utility poles, lamp posts, buildings, and other structures, in close proximity to our homes, our children's schools and throughout our downtown area.

By now you have undoubtedly been exposed to the basic issues around this technology. Individuals have made presentations to city council and a great many of us have attempted to contact you by mail and email to voice our concerns. It is our understanding that at this point these concerns are being ignored and communications are being funneled to Eric Johnston who has somehow prohibited other city personnel from even discussing this. We feel this is highly inappropriate.

All over the country, indeed, all over the world, credentialed scientists and citizens are speaking out on this topic and its implications for an economically vibrant, free, and healthy society. Our goal with this open letter is to gain your attention and ask that you look at this issue with a fresh and open mind.

We understand that most of what city governments hear about small cells and other equipment comes from Telecom representatives and attorneys. Yet, the Telecom industry has tremendous conflict of interest here and should not be taken at their word that this technology is harmless and necessary. The FCC is likewise unreliable as it is largely controlled by the telecom industry itself. This is laid out clearly in the Harvard University report, *Captured Agency* https://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/capturedagency_alster.pdf

We feel it is essential that our elected officials listen to the voices of independent scientists who are not influenced by industry money and become at least familiar with some of the legitimate independent studies on this topic. Here are a few particularly good resources (attached to this letter in hard copy):

1. **Regarding 5G Health Issues:** "A 5G Wireless Future" by Cindy Russell M.D. https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10308361407065/5%20G%20Wireless%20Future-SCCMA%20Bulletin_FEb%202017_pdf.pdf
2. **Regarding 5G Energy Usage:** <https://www.computerworld.com/article/3472000/cloud-s-real-ecological-timebomb-wireless-not-data-centres.html>
3. **Regarding 5G Environmental Impact:** <https://beyondtech.us/blogs/beyond-blog/how-fiber-optic-save-the-world>

4. **The Bio Initiative Report** is a compilation of 3,800 published studies documenting biological harm at wireless exposure levels hundreds and thousands of times BELOW the industry/FCC's so called "safety" guidelines: <https://bioinitiative.org/table-of-contents/>

We appreciate that this is a difficult topic for local government because the FCC has established specific rules removing local authority over approval and placement of small cell and other wireless equipment based upon public health impacts, making non-compliance difficult. But you are our elected representatives and your public health decisions affect your constituents and your own families. Can we as a city, and you as our representatives, really afford to ignore well documented evidence of harm from this massive increase in microwave radiation?

There is also the serious issue of your fiduciary responsibility given that major insurance underwriters throughout the world have declared that they will no longer insure for liability due to claims from harms due to wireless radiation exposure: <https://ehtrust.org/key-issues/cell-phoneswireless/telecom-insurance-companies-warn-liability-risk-go-key-issues/>

We are requesting four things which we would be glad to justify and discuss further:

1. An immediate halt to all permitting for small cells and other wireless microwave equipment.
2. The formation of a Citizens Technology Advisory Committee.
3. A dedicated point of contact with a senior staff person reporting to Mayor Fleetwood.
4. A sit down (or Zoom) meeting to discuss fiber optics to the premises and wireless frequency range communications that are more environmentally responsible.

This is a critical moment in our city's history. Microwave radiation is not benign. If small cell networks needed for 4G/5G go forward as planned, we feel our community's public health and well-being will be negatively impacted. We can do better than this. Many other cities have stepped up to address this issue, we feel Bellingham should as well.

We would like to hear back from you by August 1st with a meeting date. Please contact Cindy Franklin at 360-201-3959 or cwfranklin13@gmail.com

Respectfully,

Whatcom Citizens for Responsible Technology

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