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► **Cook County Board**

Greetings board members,

I am here today to express my concern about the ongoing rollout of 5G technology. It is imperative that you hold a full Public Health Hearing on 5G. The potential danger 5G poses to humans and the environment has been left recklessly unexplored. The FCC has not updated its standards for acceptable levels of exposure to radiofrequency radiation since 1996. Even at the time these standards were published, insiders from the telecommunications industry had undue influence over the results. To think these guidelines from the previous century bear any relevance to the devices in use today is laughable. The radiation emitted from cellular devices and corresponding cell towers has been ratcheted up many orders of magnitude since then. Meanwhile, potential links between cell phone use and cancer, especially brain cancer, have been identified. Why then, should the telecom industry be allowed to introduce technology which will dramatically increase everyday exposure to radiation, unimpeded? It simply cannot be allowed.

Last month, on 8/21/19, the Chicago Tribune published an article titled “We tested popular cellphones for radiofrequency radiation. Now the FCC is investigating.” (<https://www.chicagotribune.com/investigations/ct-cell-phone-radiation-testing-20190821-72qgu4nzd5kyuhteieih4da-story.html>) The results published in the Tribune included many of the most popular smartphones from this decade emitting levels of radiofrequency radiation much higher than is allowed by the FCC’s already dubious standards. Smartphone manufacturers are required to include health risk advisories, but they are hidden away in manuals (and sometimes incomplete or absent) where few users will ever see them, and fewer will remember to heed their warnings. Last week I attended a meeting of the Illinois General Assembly Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, & IT Committee. The topic was Technology and 5G in the State of Illinois. At this meeting, Beth Cooley, Sr. Director of State Legislative Affairs for the CTIA, proclaimed excitedly that 800,000 small cell towers will be installed nationally by 2026. I do not share her enthusiasm. The responsibility cannot fall on consumers to protect themselves, especially since they can’t opt-out of having 5G towers installed near their homes, schools, workplaces, etc. A much deeper look at existing research on health risks related to wireless technology is required. Additional studies should also be conducted independently of the telecom industry. It is imperative that further testing is conducted, and outdated safety standards are revisited, before 5G technology becomes ubiquitous. Thank you for your time and attention.

Justin Goldberg

Concerned resident of Chicago, Illinois
