



892 Arlington Av. Berkeley, CA, 94707 (307) 200-9358  
[www.ehtrust.org](http://www.ehtrust.org)

June 28, 2017

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Chair of the Local Government Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 649 (Hueso) – Small Cell Wireless Facilities — OPPOSE

Dear Chair Aguiar-Curry:

As a nonprofit research and policy organization dedicated to identifying and reducing environmental health hazards, Environmental Health Trust (EHT) writes to advise you of serious scientific grounds to reject SB 649 as advanced by Senator Hueso. I have personally served as an expert advisor to the California Department of Health as well as the San Francisco and Berkeley City governments on matters relevant to this bill. EHT has been honored to work with California government and scientists for over a decade. At the invitation of the Israel Institute for Advanced Study of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, EHT recently organized and chaired an [Expert Forum on Wireless Radiation and Health](#), bringing together scientists and engineers from more than ten high tech nations. Reflecting these efforts, EHT provides independent scientific research and advice on avoidable environmental health hazards to local, state and national governments.

SB 649 will pave the way for widespread introduction of 5G microwave wireless radiation frequency (RF) that has never been tested for its impact of public health or the environment. Other RF microwave radiation such as that used by cellphones and other wireless devices has been [classified as a 'possible carcinogen'](#) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2011 and more recently dubbed a ['probable carcinogen.'](#) by expert researchers looking at newer information in 2015.<sup>1,2,3</sup> In addition, this bill could result in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in local revenue, as the [San Francisco Chronicle noted](#) today.

By ignoring growing scientific evidence of harm, the bill effectively will ensure the widespread exposures of millions of Californians to an agent that growing numbers of scientists and nations consider a serious

---

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. ["IARC classifies radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans."](#) WHO, Press Release, no. 208, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> IARC Working Group on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans. ["Non-ionizing radiation, Part 2: Radiofrequency electromagnetic fields."](#) *IARC Monographs On The Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans*, vol. 102, pt. 2, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Morgan, L. Lloyd, et al. ["Mobile phone radiation causes brain tumors and should be classified as a probable human carcinogen \(2A\)."](#) *International Journal of Oncology*, vol. 46, no. 5, 2015, 1865-71.

health threat. Recently, studies have found that the frequencies which will be used in 5G and other future technologies can have harmful effects<sup>4</sup>, as Dr. Cindy Russell, Vice President of Community Health for the Santa Clara Medical Association noted.<sup>5</sup> As articulated in their state Constitution, California cities and counties have a duty to protect the health and safety of their residents.

EHT has a longstanding history of research and policy advice to state, local and national governments regarding strategies to reduce disease and promote health by avoiding environmental health hazards. Our organization opposes the broad scale installation of untested wireless antennas and associated electrical equipment close to humans and through critical wildlife habitat and corridors. Both federal and local zoning controls are needed to assure that cellular equipment are installed to avoid significant and serious safety threats of electrical shock, fire, and radio frequency (RF) microwave radiation exposures, as well as chronic impacts on public health and the environment.

Consistent with public health concepts of preventing harm by reducing exposure to suspected carcinogens, EHT opposes the usurpation and preemption of local authority that will allow federal and state authorities to place what state reports of the bill indicate can be thirty thousand new radiating 5G cell antennas on city and county utility, light poles, and other right of ways in close proximity to city and county workers, children, residents and visitors. In some cases towers will need to be sited every 100 feet with antennas at a height of 30 feet or less. Local authority and duty should not be overridden by preemptive federal or state policies such as SB 649 which disregards scientific evidence on this matter as outlined below.

Regarding potential health risks from RF a number of corporations advise their shareholders that they face serious risks from RF. For instance, Crown Castle's [2016 10-K ANNUAL REPORT](#), states that,

*"If radio frequency emissions from wireless handsets or equipment on our wireless infrastructure are demonstrated to cause negative health effects, potential future claims could adversely affect our operations, costs or revenues. The potential connection between radio frequency emissions and certain negative health effects, including some forms of cancer, has been the subject of substantial study by the scientific community in recent years. We cannot guarantee that claims relating to radio frequency emissions will not arise in the future or that the results of such studies will not be adverse to us...If a connection between radio frequency emissions and possible negative health effects were established, our operations, costs, or revenues may be materially and adversely affected. We currently do not maintain any significant insurance with respect to these matters."*

Most wireless companies from [AT&T](#) to [Nokia](#) to [T Mobile](#) to [Verizon Wireless](#) have issued [similar warnings](#) to their shareholders.

Regarding public health impacts, recently released research findings from the premiere test program of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) add to the body of scientific evidence

---

<sup>4</sup> Feldman, Yuri, et al. "[Human Skin as Arrays of Helical Antennas in the Millimeter and Submillimeter Wave Range.](#)" *Physical Review Letters*, vol. 100, no. 128102, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Russell, Cindy. "[A 5G Wireless Future: Will it give us a Smart Nation or Contribute to an Unhealthy One?](#)" Santa Clara Bulletin, Jan./Feb. 2017.

indicating that RF microwave radiation can be harmful. The 10 year \$25 million NIEHS National Toxicology Program's [Studies of the Toxicology and Carcinogenicity Cell Phone Radiation](#) reports that RF produced increases rates of highly malignant very rare tumors: gliomas of the brain and schwannomas of the heart.<sup>6</sup> These experimental findings are consistent with human studies showing increased rates of gliomas and acoustic neuromas (schwann cells) among humans exposed to cell phone radiation. In addition to increased cancers, the NTP study also reported that prenatally exposed animals produced offspring with lower birth weight and [evidence of direct genetic damage](#).

Since the 2011 WHO/IARC classification, the peer reviewed research connecting microwave exposure to cancer has significantly strengthened. In [2015, a study](#) replicated a 2010 [experiment](#) that found that weak cell phone signals significantly promote the growth of tumors in mice, and that toxic chemical exposures combine with RF to more than double the tumor response.<sup>7,8</sup> The Ramazzini Institute is engaged in similar research with RF that is 1000 less than the NTP exposures—set to mimic radiation exposure levels caused by network equipment (e.g., cell tower antenna emissions).

Consistent with the [NTP findings](#), the Ramazzini Institute team [report](#) significantly lower litter weights, as presented at the January 2017 [Conference on Wireless and Health](#) at Israel Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.<sup>9</sup> Findings of effects at such low levels is indication of the capability of low level electromagnetic radiation exposure to result in biological effects.

Other studies finding serious increased risk of glioma in regular cell phone users are of special relevance. In 2014, a [French national study](#) linked higher cell phone exposure to increased glioma in cell phone users.<sup>10</sup> A newly published research [report](#) in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* finds that Canadians who have used cell phones for 558 hours or more have more than a doubled risk of brain cancer.<sup>11</sup> Previous [published re-analysis](#) of the multi country Interphone study data has found stronger positive associations to glioma risk among long term users and heavy users and a [statistically significant](#) association between where tumors were located and how much radiation an individual received from their phone.<sup>12,13</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Wyde, Michael, et al. "[Report of Partial findings from the National Toxicology Program Carcinogenesis Studies of Cell Phone Radiofrequency Radiation in Hsd: Sprague Dawley® SD rats \(Whole Body Exposure\)](#)." *bioRxiv*, no. 055699, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Lerchl, Alexander, et al. "[Tumor promotion by exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields below exposure limits for humans](#)." *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*, vol. 459, no. 4, 2015, pp. 585-90.

<sup>8</sup> Tillmann, Thomas, et al. "[Indication of cocarcinogenic potential of chronic UMTS-modulated radiofrequency exposure in an ethylnitrosourea mouse model](#)." *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, vol. 86, no. 7, 2010, pp. 529-41.

<sup>9</sup> Belpoggi, Fiorella. "[Recent findings on wireless radiation and health from the Ramazzini Institute could reinforce the NTP results](#)." *Conference on Wireless and Health*, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Coureau, Gaëlle, et al. "[Mobile phone use and brain tumours in the CERENAT case-control study](#)." *Occupational Environmental Medicine*, vol. 71, no. 7, 2014, pp. 514-22.

<sup>11</sup> Momoli, F., et al. "[Probabilistic multiple-bias modelling applied to the Canadian data from the INTERPHONE study of mobile phone use and risk of glioma, meningioma, acoustic neuroma, and parotid gland tumors](#)." *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Turner, Michelle C., et al. "[Investigation of bias related to differences between case and control interview dates in five INTERPHONE countries](#)." *Annals of Epidemiology*, vol. 26, 12, 2016, pp. 827-32.

More recently, research carried out by physicists in Israel and others have shown that the higher millimeter wave frequencies to be used in 5G applications uniquely interacts with sweat ducts of the human skin which can then function as antennas to amplify signals. This work extends studies first produced in 1986.<sup>14</sup> The potential long-term impact of such stimulation on precancerous skin growths should be evaluated carefully, including potential super-growth of bacteria.<sup>15</sup> A [lecture](#) by Paul Ben-Ishai, PhD, and published research on this issue can be found on the [2017 Conference website](#).<sup>16, 17, 18</sup>

Cancer is not the only health concern presented by wireless devices and infrastructure. Impacts on [reproduction](#) and [brain development](#) have also been repeatedly reported in the peer reviewed literature in addition to a myriad of other adverse effects.<sup>19, 20, 21, 22</sup>

In light of these developments showing growing evidence of the biological impact of RF, it is imperative that new infrastructure and 5G not be introduced widely into commerce at this time. The State of California needs to critically consider the potential impact of massive new and possibly carcinogenic wireless exposures to their population. Before introducing additional untested wireless technology into the environment, it is necessary to:

- model exposures to infants, children and pregnant women;
- conduct experimental tests on exposures' impacts on wildlife; and
- evaluate impacts on human systems through in vitro and in vivo toxicology

In 2015, the [International EMF Scientist Appeal](#), now signed by over 225 scientists from 41 nations, was submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of the World Health Organization and U.N. Member Nations urging the development of more protective guidelines for EMF (including RF-EMF), encouraging precautionary measures, and calling for education of the public about

---

<sup>13</sup> Grell, Kathrine, et al. ["The intracranial distribution of gliomas in relation to exposure from mobile phones: analyses from the INTERPHONE study."](#) *American Journal of Epidemiology*, vol. 184, no. 11, 2016, pp. 818-28.

<sup>14</sup> Gandhi OP, Riaz A. ["Absorption of millimeter waves by human beings and its biological implications."](#) *IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques*, vol. 34, no. 2, 1986, pp. 228-235.

<sup>15</sup> Soghomonyan D, K. Trchounian and A. Trchounian. ["Millimeter waves or extremely high frequency electromagnetic fields in the environment: what are their effects on bacteria?"](#) *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology*, vol. 100, no. 11, 2016, pp. 4761-71.

<sup>16</sup> Feldman, Yuri and Paul Ben-Ishai. ["Potential Risks to Human Health Originating from Future Sub-MM Communication Systems."](#) *Conference on Wireless and Health*, 2017.

<sup>17</sup> Hayut, Itai, Paul Ben Ishai, Aharon J. Agranat and Yuri Feldman. ["Circular polarization induced by the three-dimensional chiral structure of human sweat ducts."](#) *Physical Review E*, vol. 89, no. 042715, 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Feldman, Yuri, et al. ["Human Skin as Arrays of Helical Antennas in the Millimeter and Submillimeter Wave Range."](#) *Physical Review Letters*, vol. 100, no. 128102, 2008.

<sup>19</sup> Adams, Jessica A., et al. ["Effect of mobile telephones on sperm quality: a systematic review and meta-analysis."](#) *Environment International*, 70, 2014, pp. 106-112.

<sup>20</sup> Deshmukh, P.S., et al. ["Cognitive impairment and neurogenotoxic effects in rats exposed to low-intensity microwave radiation."](#) *International Journal of Toxicology*, vol. 34, no. 3, 2015, pp. 284-90.

<sup>21</sup> Aldad, T.S., et al. ["Fetal Radiofrequency Radiation Exposure From 800-1900 MHz-Rated Cellular Telephones Affects Neurodevelopment and Behavior in Mice."](#) *Scientific Reports*, vol. 2, no. 312, 2012.

<sup>22</sup> Sonmez, O.F., et al. ["Purkinje cell number decreases in the adult female rat cerebellum following exposure to 900 MHz electromagnetic field."](#) *Brain Research*, vol. 1356, 2010, pp. 95-101.

health risks, particularly risks to children and fetal development.<sup>23</sup> Most recently, the EMF Scientists have submitted [Comments to the FCC](#) asking the FCC to critically consider the potential impact of the 5th generation wireless infrastructure on the health and safety of the U.S. population before proceeding to deploy this infrastructure.

California firefighters have lobbied to protect themselves and successfully received exemption on health grounds from the installation of these cell towers. Similarly cities and counties should be given the needed local controls to protect their citizens from the health and safety risks of these installations. As currently envisioned, transmitters can be placed in close proximity to bedrooms and schools without consideration of the health of their occupants. Research is critically needed to evaluate the public health and environmental impacts of proposed wireless facilities before deployment.

Worldwide, governments are acting to minimize exposures to children as they are most vulnerable. For example, the Supreme Court of India upheld the High Court of the State of Rajasthan's decision to remove all cell towers from the vicinity of schools, hospitals and playgrounds because of radiation "hazardous to life." In Chile, the 2012 "[Antennae Law](#)" prohibits cell antennae/towers in "sensitive areas".<sup>24</sup> Please learn more about international policy actions such as these in our [online briefing](#).<sup>25</sup>

The assumption that all wireless technology is safe has been shown through recent studies to be incorrect. EHT strongly opposes the widespread installation of 5G antennas and towers and believes that the state should move forward on its commitment to support the installation of fiber optic cables buried in the ground to every business, home, school, and hospital in California. We urge the state not to ignore this evidence of harm from RF. Please vote "no" vote on SB 649 and uphold the rights of local government to protect public health and the environment.

Sincerely,



**Devra Davis, PhD, MPH**

Fellow, American College of Epidemiology

Visiting Prof. Hebrew Univ. Hadassah Medical Center & Ondokuz Mayis Univ. Medical School

Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Radiation and Health*

President, Environmental Health Trust

---

<sup>23</sup> Blank, M., et al. "[International Appeal: Scientists call for protection from non-ionizing electromagnetic field exposure.](#)" *European Journal of Oncology*, vol. 20, no. 3/4, 2015, pp. 180-2.

<sup>24</sup> "[New communications antenna law in Chile.](#)" *Communications Law: Newsletter of the International Bar Association Legal Practice Division*, vol. 20, no. 1, 2013, pp. 14-16.

<sup>25</sup> "[International Policy Briefing: Cautionary Policy on Radiofrequency Radiation Actions by Governments, Health Authorities and Schools Worldwide.](#)" Environmental Health Trust, 2017.