

Testimony Opposing ZTA 22-01- Cell Tower Antennas 30 Feet From homes

Dear Montgomery County Council,

Please vote no on ZTA 22-01.

I have lived in Silver Spring for nearly 60 years. I do not want a cell tower in front of my home, no matter how short it is. Do your best to keep these towers away from our children.

Please see information from Environmental Health Trust showing other officials voted to protect their residents. You each should do the same instead of voting to allow cell towers in our neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Bette Steckler

Many communities have passed strong ordinances restricting cell towers and small cell antennas near homes and schools. Montgomery County should follow suit to protect the families that live here.

Setbacks for Cell Towers from *Environmental Health Trust* ehtrust.org

[Shelburne, Massachusetts](#): 3,000 feet for schools and 1,500 feet for homes.

[Copake, New York](#): 1,500 feet from homes, schools, churches and public buildings.

[Sallisaw, Oklahoma](#): 1,500 from homes.

[Calabasas, California](#): No "Tier 2" telecommunications facilities within 1,000 feet of homes and schools.

[Stockbridge, Massachusetts](#): 1,000 feet for schools, playgrounds and athletic fields. 600 feet for residential.

[Walnut City, California](#): 1,500 feet setbacks for schools, parks and residential zones.

[Bar Harbor, Maine](#): 1500 feet setback for schools.

[Bedford, New Hampshire](#): 750 feet from nearest residentially-zoned property.

[Encinitas, California](#): Restricted site locations include residential zones, within Ecological zones, or very high fire hazard severity zones, 500 feet from residential dwelling unit, daycare facilities or schools.

[Scarsdale, New York](#) - 500 feet setback from homes, schools, parks, and houses of worship.

[Randolph, Massachusetts](#): 500 feet setbacks for homes.

[Petaluma, California](#): 500 feet setback for homes.

[Suisun City, California](#): 500 feet setback for homes.

[Ithaca New York](#): 250 feet or more setback from any residence, school, or day-care facility.

Several school districts prohibit cell towers such as:

- Los Angeles California
- Palo Alto California
- West Linn-Wilsonville, Oregon

Wireless infrastructure can impact tree canopy in numerous ways

- Companies have aggressively trimmed trees with no oversight by arborists.
- Trees are being felled/removed to build infrastructure and/or roads to the facility.
- Digging to install the poles and related equipment can disrupt the root zone.
- Research studies have found damage to trees from exposure to the radiofrequency radiation emitted from the wireless antennas.

What municipalities can do to protect trees:

- Require companies to present a master plan for their proposed networks (rather than piecemeal one at a time) to determine environmental impacts including impacts to tree canopy and pollinator habitat.
- Require environmental assessments for the network that includes impacts to trees.
- Zoning and ordinances should include tree protections such as setbacks for root zones.
- Prohibit tree removal and trimming for new infrastructure.
- Create a transparent process for oversight that includes independent arborists and experts.

Examples of Tree Protections

[Washington DC](#)

A standalone pole shall not be located within an existing street tree's protected zone and poles shall not be placed within 15 feet of any open tree planting space.

No street tree shall be removed, or have its protected root zone impacted and "no tree shall be pruned related to the installation or functioning of small cell infrastructure."

[Denver Colorado](#)

Minimum of 15-25 feet of separation to the tree trunk such that no proposed disturbance shall occur within 5 feet of the critical root zone (drip-line) of any tree.

[Thornton Colorado](#)

Poles shall not be located... "less than 15 feet or within the drip line of an existing tree, whichever is greater in order to protect the health of the tree."

Listen to Science Please

Expert Quotes from Environmental Health Trust

“Given the human, animal and experimental evidence, I assert that, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, the probability that RF exposure causes gliomas and neuromas is high.”

-Christopher Portier PhD [former Director of the United States National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and former Director of the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Portier’s [176-page expert report](#) with 443 scientific references found scientific evidence of carcinogenicity.

“The scientific evidence is sufficiently robust showing that cellular devices pose significant health risks to children and pregnant women. The weight of the evidence supports stronger precautionary regulation by the federal government. The cellular industry should take immediate steps to reduce emission of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from phones and avoid marketing their products to children.”

[John Wargo, Ph.D., Environmental Risk and Policy at Yale University](#)

“I am calling on my industry to bring safer technology to market. The current implementation of technology is not safe. Take a good look at the science. This is about our children’s future. Do not be lulled into believing that 25-year-old standards can protect the youngest and most vulnerable. They simply cannot.”

Frank Clegg, CEO of Canadians for Safe Technology and Former President of Microsoft Canada, [5G Appeal](#) [NIH Talk](#)

“Children’s brains develop through the teenage years and may be more affected by cell phone use. Parents should consider reducing the time their children use cell phones and encourage them to turn the devices off at night.”

- Dr. Karen Smith, Director of the [California Department of Public Health press release](#) for issuance of their [cell phone radiation advisory](#).

“We should not wait to protect children’s brains. The science is now clear and compelling, indicating that wireless technology is harmful to health, especially for children. Wireless radiation is repeating the history of lead, tobacco and DDT.”

-Devra Davis PhD, MPH, President of Environmental Health Trust, founding director of the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the U.S. National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, and **a member of the team of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with the Honorable Al Gore.** [Watch Dr. Davis’ TEDx talk](#)

“The exposure levels of the Federal Communications Commission are totally outdated and do not protect the health of the public, especially of children. I urge you to take strong and active steps to reduce exposure of children and staff to excessive levels of radiofrequency EMFS within your schools.

-David O. Carpenter, M.D. Director, **Institute for Health and the Environment University at Albany**