CMA letter to on SB649

This letter was written by a California physician and can be used by a physician or anybody. Replace the items that are underlined and in <brackets> with your own information.

Send your letter to memberservice@cmanet.org

<Date of your letter>

To the California Medical Association:

My name is <Your name>. I practice <Your medical specialty> in <Your city> and have been a member of CMA for the past <insert number of> years.

Please respond to this message.

Please take the time to understand the potential impact on the health of our families and our children with this Bill – SB 649.  It’s concerning because we already have evidence that the emissions from cell tower (radio frequency or RF radiation) are harmful, and most harmful for those living in and around them because of cumulative exposure to RF radiation1,2. (See the footnotes for some of this evidence.)

It’s clear that many of the wealthiest communities are already taking steps to protect their own families and their health – the wealthiest communities in California have banned smart electric meters due to RF radiation health impacts (Marin, mountains of Santa Cruz, and many others) while we all have them on our homes.  You see fewer cell towers as well in these wealthy communities, and you won’t see cell towers on the schools in these communities, but they are rampant in our community. And of course, the program described in SB649 is blanketing Sacramento and more or less all of California with mini towers, not in the towns where the engineers and CEOs behind this technology live.  A very “not in my backyard” policy.

You won’t ever see a cell tower on a fire station because the firefighters union have banned them due to the slowed neurologic response effect it has on humans. Since 2004 the

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND MEDICINE, has opposed the siting of cell towers on fire stations in its “Position on the Health Effects from Radio Frequency/Microwave (RF/MW) Radiation in Fire Department Facilities from Base Stations for Antennas and Towers for the Conduction of Cell Phone Transmissions”.

<http://www.iaff.org/HS/Resi/CellTowerFinal.htm>

The fire fighters have gotten an exemption in SB649 protecting them from having a “small cell” installed on fire stations. Section 65964.2. (a)(3) of the bill says, “The small cell is not located on a fire department facility.”

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB649>

SB649 thus implicitly recognizes the health hazard and the need to not place small cells close to where people work, but only for fire fighters. Nobody else is protected.

But you continue to see cell towers sprouting up on schools, and churches because they didn’t have a group standing up for their health rights.

On December 13, 2016 the Maryland Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council adopted a report on WiFi Radiation in Schools in Maryland. You see the Council

making recommendations to the Department of Education to REMOVE wifi from their schools, and wire in for internet access, but that’s because all of the NIH scientists live in Maryland, and the latest studies on RF radiation demonstrating associated health harms was carried out there. The Council recommended:

“While scientists work to answer questions about the impact of WiFi on children’s health, the Council recommends limiting exposures as much as feasibly practical, without negatively impacting education.”

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Pages/WiFiCEHPAC.aspx>

The inequity continues for us in Sacramento.

Please feel free to call me. Allowing telecom companies to make profits at the expense of the health of our children reeks of big tobacco. People are beginning to see the overt abuse of power of what’s happening, and there is a slow but steady movement of understanding.

Putting mini cell towers on every street lamp in front of millions of homes means millions of children will have a tower right outside their bedroom window, front yard, or backyard. We need to protect the families of our community. It’s every child’s right to grow up in a healthy, low radiation environment, not just a right for the privileged.

Please oppose SB649.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

<Your name and title, if any, such as M.D.>

Footnotes

1 In May of 2015, 190 scientists from 39 countries who have studied the health impacts of wireless radiation signed the EMF Scientist International Appeal. The Appeal stated that:

Numerous recent scientific publications have shown that EMF affects living organisms at levels well below most international and national guidelines. Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans. Damage goes well beyond the human race, as there is growing evidence of harmful effects to both plant and animal life.

The Appeal recommended:

The International EMF Scientist Appeal calls upon the United Nations, the WHO, UNEP and the UN Member States to:

address the emerging public health crisis related to cell phones, wireless devices, wireless utility meters and wireless infrastructure in neighborhoods; and

urge that the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) initiate an assessment of alternatives to current exposure standards and practices that could substantially lower human exposures to non-ionizing radiation.

UNEP is the UN’s “voice for the environment” and is uniquely positioned to take a planetary view of the potential for harm that EMF pollution presents to biology -- the evolution, health, well being and very survival of all living organisms world-wide. EMF scientists are giving warnings about clear signs of adverse biological and health problems that are affecting people and nature. Now is the time to ask serious questions about this emerging environmental health crisis.

<https://emfscientist.org/>

RF radiation, it’s true is everywhere, from smart meters, cell towers, and even wifi - but it’s the layered effect on children and those living closest to strong sources that is concerning, and it often takes many years for those health problems to present themselves.  Again it has a cumulative effect, and so those who will be at greatest harm will be children.

2 On December7 , 2014 the California Medical Association adopted a Resolution on Wireless Standards Reevaluation. That Resolution said:

“Whereas scientists are increasingly identifying EMF from wireless devices as a new form of environmental pollution with a growing body of peer reviewed scientific evidence finding significant adverse health and biologic effects on living organisms with exposure to low levels of non-ionizing microwaves currently approved and used in wireless communication,”

The CMA Resolution recommended:

Resolved 1

That CMA supports efforts to reevaluate microwave safety exposure levels associated with wireless communication devices, including consideration of adverse non-thermal biologic and health effects from non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation used in wireless communications; and be it further

Resolved 2

That CMA support efforts to implement new safety exposure limits for wireless devices to levels that do not cause human or environmental harm based on scientific research.

<https://ehtrust.org/the-california-medical-association-wireless-resolution/>