

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Mayor Emmett V. Jordan  
Greenbelt City Council  
Council Chambers  
25 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Mayor Pro Tem Judith F. Davis  
Greenbelt City Council  
Council Chambers  
25 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

**RE: Opposition To Agenda Items #13 & #14 Regarding Cellphone and Tower Safety**

Dear Mayor Jordan and Mayor Pro Tem Davis,

I am writing to you today on behalf of CTIA-The Wireless Association®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, to respectfully oppose two items on your November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 agenda: Items #13 and #14 regarding the safety of cellphones and the safety of tower sites. Item #13, "Petition Regarding Safety of Cell Phones and Other Wireless Devices," is unnecessary and unwise. Further, Item #14, "Petition to Oppose Locating Cell Phone Towers on School Property," is also unwise in that prohibiting the placement of wireless towers on the grounds of a school could reduce the ability of wireless telecommunications carriers to deploy telecommunications facilities needed for public safety and to provide broadband services in one of Maryland's most densely-populated counties.

Item #13 is unnecessary. Wireless devices marketed and sold in the United States are comprehensively regulated at the federal level, and have been deemed safe by federal regulators and other impartial experts. Leading health and safety organizations have concluded there are no known adverse health risks associated with the use of wireless devices. In fact, the FDA concludes that, "[t]he scientific evidence does not show a danger to any users of cell phones from RF exposure, including children and teenagers."<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the FCC advises that, "[s]ome health and safety interest groups have interpreted certain reports to suggest that wireless device use may be linked to cancer and other illnesses, posing potentially greater risks for children than adults. While these assertions have gained increased public attention, currently no scientific evidence establishes a causal link between wireless device use and cancer or other

<sup>1</sup> See "Children and Cell Phones," available at: <http://www.fda.gov/Radiation-EmittingProducts/RadiationEmittingProductsandProcedures/HomeBusinessandEntertainment/CellPhones/ucm116331.htm> last accessed 11/21/2014.

the direction of other jurisdictions in the United States.<sup>4</sup>

In closing, for all the reasons described herein, we strongly urge the City Council to reject Item #13 regarding cellphone safety and Item #14 regarding the prohibition of towers on school property.

Sincerely,



Bethanne Cooley  
Director, State Legislative Affairs  
CTIA-The Wireless Association ®

cc: Members, Greenbelt City Council

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<sup>4</sup> PCIA-The Wireless Infrastructure Association, "Model State Legislation," *available at:* [http://www.pcia.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=159](http://www.pcia.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=159), last accessed 11/21/2014.