

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I have been keeping informed about Section 248a of H. 710.

I am disappointed that you have only allowed Gregg Faber to testify and wish you invited other voices into the discussion.

I am in support of sunseting Section 248a and moving to Act 250 siting authority **allowing municipal ordinances and by-laws to be applied in Act 250's review.**

The telecom companies are trying to take away the rights of municipalities and those of us involved in watching how they operate- we have seen this in Bennington County- object to continuing Section 248a. Verizon and other groups refuse to listen to citizens and our Select Boards and zoning authorities. They want to have control over where to put cell towers. In Manchester they want to place it next to a trailer park (note that please- often cell towers and antennas are placed near where the poor live), an elementary school, our municipal buildings, Town Clerks Office and Recreation Center. The citizens rejected this. The corporate powers said essentially- "We Don't Care" we'll do as we please. This attitude can't be allowed to continue and you can put your foot down and tell them so!

Vermonters recognize the need for cell service but the the Section 248a law is weighted in favor of Big Tech. The FCC and the Federal government refuses to take into consideration health concerns despite 10,000 studies that show that EMF's and RF's cause adverse health issues. Big Tech doesn't care. They choose sites close to village centers, people's homes, schools, recreation centers.

Meanwhile, the PUC process is insufficient. It was not designed with public participation in mind.

Please vote to sunset Section 248a and come up with a better plan that addresses our telecom issues. What we have can be improved upon so that the law helps rather than stifles the rights of Vermont municipalities and community members.

Sunset Section 248a and use Act 250 to regulate cell tower and antenna development placement.

Thank you,

Rev. Dr. Steven E. Berry

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