

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Colorado General Assembly
FROM: Colorado 5G Action
DATE: October 14, 2019
SUBJECT: Reclaiming Local Control Over Cellular Wireless Facilities in Colorado

Cover Memorandum

Colorado 5G Action is a coalition of citizens who are concerned about the impacts of widespread cellular wireless networks, including 5G wireless, on Colorado communities. We urge the Colorado General Assembly to repeal or repeal and replace HB 17-1193, which preempts local governments from having meaningful oversight of wireless small cell facilities (SCFs) and networks (SCNs) installed on public rights-of-way. HB 17-1193 was passed to benefit the industry, not Colorado communities, many of which prefer fast and affordable wired optical fiber access networks to 5G wireless. In addition, 5G has numerous downsides, including health impacts that are not fully understood, possible weather forecasting interference, and potential misuse for surveillance and increasing invasions of privacy, amongst others. Above all, local governments should have the right to decide what type of broadband infrastructure fits their needs.

The accompanying policy report, *Reclaiming Local Control Over Cellular Wireless Facilities in Colorado*, provides background and identifies the key issues regarding the recent legislation and its shortcomings. We hope that you will find it a useful and fair assessment of the situation and that it provides you with a basis on which to proceed regarding improving telecommunications in Colorado.

If lawmakers choose to replace HB 17-1193 with a new legal framework, the Colorado General Assembly should pass a law that prioritizes local control over the fifth generation of cellular deployments similar to the local controls deployed by earlier generations: 2G, 3G, and 4G. Additionally, a new legal framework can ensure that local governments receive a fair deal when leasing public land and rights-of-way to telecommunications companies. The attached Policy Report summarizes the legal, social, and scientific support for this request.

Colorado 5G Action
Boulder 5G Action
Larimer County Safe Wireless Advocates
El Paso County Citizens Against 5G
Concerned Citizens for 5G Health Effects