

Strict Cell Tower Laws Needed

Four months ago I joined with the parents and community of Taper Avenue Elementary in San Pedro to fight the installation of a T-Mobile wireless pole directly across the street from the school's playground. I have supported my colleagues on the Los Angeles Unified School District board in fighting cell towers near our schools before, but this was my first experience in my district and it was a disappointing one.

I was disappointed and disheartened with the lack of common courtesy from T-Mobile.

Although the Federal Communications Commission does not allow government agencies to fight them based on health concerns, T-Mobile knows we are concerned and I am sure every community is concerned. I can't understand why T-Mobile would continue this practice.

T-Mobile has gone too far when they build towers next to our schools.

Other countries have much stricter zoning codes for wireless poles, including Germany, where T-Mobile is based. It is time for the U.S. to tighten up our rules. We do this with environmental laws, why not radio waves for cellular antennas?

As for my family, we will never use T-Mobile.

Communities beware! Our need of wireless support has begun the out-of-control proliferation of cell towers. It is time we demand the federal government re-examine their laws and conduct a new study of the health effects. T-Mobile wants us to believe the cell towers are safe. Prove it!

I would like to thank the many families of the Taper community. They showed up to meetings and protests, and never gave up. I would especially like to thank Bill Korakis. He is a man of his word and fights for what he believes in.

I will not concede that we have lost this one. I will never give up and I will continue to tell everyone that T-Mobile has placed profits ahead of the safety of our children.

Richard Vladovic
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