

The Environment and 5G

California has a reputation for informing the rest of the country on how to deal with environmental issues, especially those that are related to climate change. While many people do not think of the massive roll-out of 5G antennas across the state as an environmental issue, the facts prove otherwise.

Wireless communications increases energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions exponentially. With the proposed massive installation of 5G antennas and the amount of energy required for their operation, it will be working against all of our efforts to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and cancel out the many efforts to reduce energy use by cities and towns across the state.

Has anyone been watching the news...or even just looking out the window? Our state is on fire, we are experiencing another epic drought, farmers are selling their land for solar farms, some vineyards and wineries are gone forever, water rationing is the new norm as we run out of water and we suffer too many days when the air is considered unsafe to breathe. Unless 5G technology will reduce the ravages of climate change or miraculously increase our water supply, the investment is clearly not worth the price.

In a 2015 paper, "On Global Electricity Usage of Communication Technology," Huawei consultant Anders Andrae predicted that by 2030, wireless communications technologies could consume 51% of global electricity and emit 23% of greenhouse gases.

Any non-essential business that is going to require a lot of energy shouldn't be facilitated by our elected officials as we struggle to address climate change head-on. Legislation before the California Legislature, specifically Senate Bill # S-556 and Assembly Bill #A-537 will severely limit the ability of local officials to have control over installations and accelerate the placement of hundreds of 5G small cell antennas in our communities. The industry is claiming, wrongly, that these laws will close the digital divide. That is simply not true.

Fiber-optic communication is the climate-friendly way to access the internet and it can be made available at an affordable cost to everyone in all communities across the state.

Call your state representatives today and ask them to vote no on both of these bills.