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7 Good Reasons to Vote NO on SB 556

1. SB 556 takes away the ability of local officials to determine how to safely and responsibly integrate new technologies into their communities and hands that control to the telecoms.

- According to the [California League of Cities](#), “SB 556...requires local governments to make space available to telecommunications providers without recognizing local authority to manage the public right-of-way preserved in federal law.”
- This bill gives telecoms the legal right to ignore local zoning codes and the preferences of the community. For antennas constructed in the "public right-of-way" (such as on lighting or utility poles), it eliminates public hearings, advance notice of installations and appeals.
- Loss of local control over the placement of wireless infrastructure increases the risk of potentially catastrophic [fires](#), because the incorrect placement of antennas can significantly increase risk. Only local authorities should be trusted with this responsibility, not telecoms.

2. Contrary to promises made to disadvantaged communities, SB 556 includes nothing in the text of the bill to remedy the inequity of the *Digital Divide*.

- Nothing in this bill addresses the real cause of the Digital Divide which is **COST**, not availability.
- The bill intentionally blurs the line between **wired** broadband and **wireless** broadband in order to help telecoms grow their [more profitable and unregulated](#) wireless business.
- **FIBER** to homes, schools and businesses is good for communities, **wireless** is not. The best solution for underserved communities is [community fiber](#).
- SB 556 diminishes the opportunities for this, with the State putting its thumb on the scale in favor of wireless and telecom corporations.

3. Insurance companies refuse to insure telecoms against liability related to radiofrequency (RF) radiation exposure from wireless antennas; cities and towns could be liable.

- Because insurance companies refuse to cover wireless companies for health claims related to exposure to RF radiation, liability could fall on cities and towns.
- In its [2019 New Emerging Risks SONAR Report](#), **Swiss Re**, one of the world’s largest insurance companies, classified 5G as a “**High Impact Liability**” risk. The report stated, “Existing concerns regarding potential negative health effects from electromagnetic fields

(EMF) are only likely to increase.”

- [The Electromagnetic Fields Exclusion](#) ... **is applied across the market as standard.** The exclusion includes: “Bodily injury, property damage, or personal and advertising injury.....provided that such injury or damage results from or is contributed to by the pathological properties of electromagnetic radiation.”

4. Federally-funded research shows that exposure to radiation from wireless networks and devices causes cancer as well as organ and DNA damage. Contrary to assurances of safety by the telecom industry, the ability of wireless radiation exposure to cause serious illness has been firmly established.

- A major [\\$25 million study by the U.S. National Toxicology Program](#) of the National Institutes of Health found “clear evidence” of cancer and increased incidence of DNA damage in laboratory animals **from exposure levels the FCC considers "safe"!** Read an expert analysis [here](#).
- The [American Cancer Society’s statement](#) on the significance of this study: “The NTP report linking radiofrequency radiation (RFR) to two types of cancer marks a paradigm shift in our understanding of radiation and cancer risk. The findings are unexpected; we wouldn’t reasonably expect non-ionizing radiation to cause these tumors.”
- SB 556 streamlines the growing deployment of wireless infrastructure in close proximity to homes, schools and places of work. Increasing this documented public health risk is going against the tide of science [which continues to show biological harm from wireless exposure](#) – especially concerning is the increased risk to children and [pregnant women](#).

5. Data show that property values are lower for homes located near “small cell” wireless antennas and cell towers.

- A [survey by the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy \(NISLAPP\)](#) found that 94 percent of homebuyers are “less interested and would pay less” for a property located near a cell tower or antenna.
- Homeowners with wireless antennas on, or near their property report [more difficulty finding buyers](#), lower-than-expected sales prices, as well as buyers backing out of contracts.
- Recent studies showing that home buyers “[prioritize 5G](#)” were sponsored by the telecom industry. It is unlikely that survey questions mentioned antennas, but survey questions were not released.

6. Wireless transmissions are easier for hackers to penetrate compared to the more secure fiberoptic connections to homes, schools and businesses.

- Wireless networks are [easier to hack](#) than wired networks. To hack a wired network you need a physical connection; for wireless, all you need is a wireless-enabled laptop.

- According to [Aberdeen Cyber Security](#), a leading security firm, “*Wired networks perform better than wireless networks and are more secure than wireless networks.*”

7. Wireless broadband connectivity will have a significant negative impact on energy consumption vs. wired fiber to the premises.

- Wireless antennas require significant amount of power to transmit signals, while fiberoptic (wired) broadband connections require [virtually none](#).
- The number of small cell antennas required to implement 5G coverage will [significantly increase power requirements](#) at a time when California is seeking to reduce its carbon footprint.
- A typical 5G base station uses [twice as much energy](#) as a 4G base station.