

Dena J. DelloBuono

63 Fredericks Street

Wanaque, NJ 07465

denabotbyl@gmail.com

973-557-3344

I am submitting this comment as a mother, a former student of Lakeland Regional High School in Wanaque, New Jersey, and now the parent of children who attend that same school.

For nearly three years, members of our community have been fighting the placement of a cellular communications tower on the grounds of Lakeland Regional High School, immediately adjacent to a place where children spend much of their lives and near surrounding residential neighborhoods.

The proposed facility is approximately 120 feet tall and would sit on school property at 205 Conklingtown Road in Wanaque.

Our community began organizing against this proposal in December 2023. After extensive proceedings and significant public participation, the Wanaque Planning Board denied the application in June 2024. T-Mobile subsequently sued the municipality and Planning Board in federal court. In 2026, after settlement proceedings arising from that litigation, the Planning Board reversed its prior denial and approved the tower.

Parents and residents participated in the local process. We attended meetings, researched the application, spoke publicly, retained counsel, submitted objections, and asked our government to protect the place where our children learn and where families live.

And still, we found ourselves confronting a regulatory system in which local communities can face enormous legal pressure when they attempt to say no.

This is precisely why federal health agencies must examine this issue.

I am not suggesting that HHS should make scientific conclusions that the evidence does not support. I am asking HHS to confront honestly what we still do not know—particularly regarding long-term, cumulative radiofrequency exposure; rapidly evolving wireless technologies; exposure beginning in early childhood; and the consequences of placing wireless infrastructure immediately beside locations occupied by children day after day, year after year.

Children are not simply small adults. They may spend thirteen years attending school, beginning when they are five years old. Decisions about infrastructure placed on school grounds can therefore create involuntary, long-duration exposure affecting an entire generation of children.

When substantial scientific questions remain, children should receive more protection, not less.

There is no compelling reason that cellular towers must be located immediately beside homes, schools, hospitals, or other places occupied by potentially sensitive populations when safer siting alternatives can be required and meaningfully investigated.

Our children should not be guinea pigs.

Their health should not be something weighed against lease revenue, telecommunications profits, litigation costs, or municipal convenience.

Our children's health is not for sale.

I urge HHS to undertake a truly independent reassessment of the scientific literature regarding radiofrequency and electromagnetic-field exposure, including research examining effects occurring below existing federal exposure limits. I also urge HHS to specifically investigate long-term cumulative exposure and the effects of exposure beginning during childhood, rather than relying primarily on models developed around shorter-term or adult exposure.

HHS should also examine whether the existing federal framework adequately protects communities when wireless infrastructure is proposed near schools, homes, hospitals, childcare facilities, and other sensitive locations.

At minimum, I urge HHS to recommend:

- substantially greater independent federal research into long-term and cumulative RF/EMF exposure, particularly in children;
- research and exposure standards that account for real-world cumulative exposure from multiple wireless sources rather than evaluating technologies in isolation;
- regular reassessment of federal exposure standards as wireless technology changes;
- special consideration and stronger protections for children and other potentially sensitive populations;
- meaningful consideration of precautionary setbacks or siting protections for wireless infrastructure near schools, childcare facilities, homes, hospitals, and similar locations;
- transparent disclosure and monitoring of RF exposure associated with wireless infrastructure;
- greater federal coordination among HHS, NIH, FDA, CDC, FCC, and other relevant agencies; and
- a regulatory framework that allows state and local governments to take legitimate health concerns and the protection of children into account when making land-use decisions involving wireless infrastructure.

Most importantly, uncertainty should not automatically favor deployment.

When the population being exposed includes children, the burden should not fall on parents to prove harm after infrastructure has already been installed. Government should require a high

degree of confidence in long-term safety before permitting involuntary, continuous exposure in the places where children spend their days.

I attended Lakeland Regional High School myself. My children walk those halls now.

That makes this intensely personal to me.

Schools should be places where parents can send their children knowing that every reasonable precaution has been taken to protect them. Families should not have to become telecommunications experts, land-use lawyers, public-health researchers, and litigants simply to ask that a cell tower not be placed beside their children's school or their homes.

What has happened in Wanaque demonstrates why this issue cannot be left solely to individual communities fighting billion-dollar telecommunications companies one application at a time.

We need the federal government to do its job: ask the difficult scientific questions, close the research gaps, modernize standards when warranted, and put human health—especially children's health—at the center of wireless policy.

Please use this opportunity to establish a precautionary, transparent, science-based approach to wireless radiation and infrastructure siting.

Our children deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Dena J. DelloBuono

Dena J. DelloBuono