

Opinion: House Bill 6492 may endanger wildlife and public health with increased cell towers

 ehn.org/opinion-house-bill-6492-may-endanger-wildlife-and-public-health-with-increased-cell-towers

EHN Curators

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The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation that could significantly increase cell tower installations in national parks, raising concerns about environmental and health impacts.

[Mary Anne Tierney and Anne Hines write for the *Citizen Times*.](#)

In short:

- HR 6492, also known as the "Connect Our Parks Act," proposes widespread installation of cell towers in areas such as the Appalachian Trail and Great Smoky Mountains, potentially disrupting wildlife.
- Research indicates that radiofrequency radiation from these towers can harm flora and fauna, including causing navigation issues in bees and reducing bird survival rates.
- Legal and historical issues with RF radiation have led to lawsuits and findings of negligence, including a significant 2018 case citing "clear evidence of carcinogenesis" related to cell phone radiation.

Key quote:

"We find the Commission's (FCC) order arbitrary and capricious in its complete failure to respond to comments concerning environmental harm caused by RF radiation."

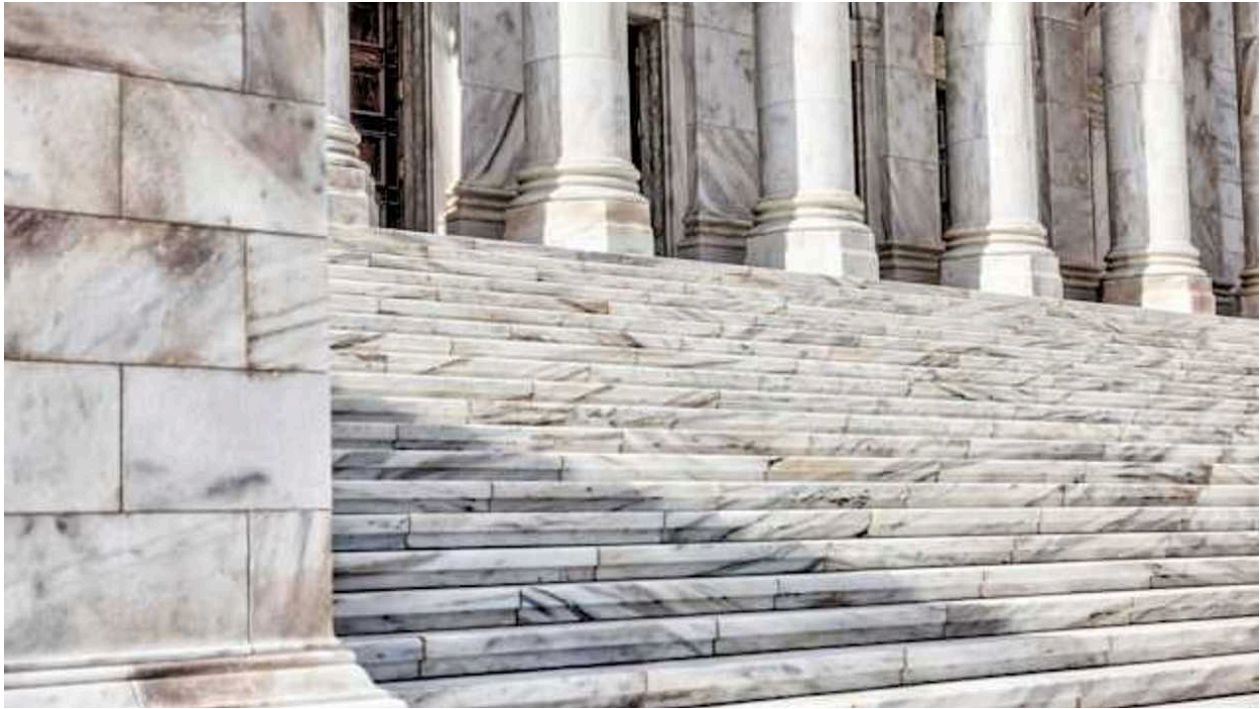
— Environmental Health Trust et al. v. FCC, D.C. Court of Appeals

Why this matters:

All wireless devices - including cell phones, WiFi routers, and the towers they depend on for service - emit radiofrequency radiation. While this radiation is different from high frequency radiation (like the type emitted by x-rays), a growing body of data suggests that RF radiation may still have the ability to alter cellular molecules, potentially increasing the risk for negative health impacts.

www.citizen-times.com

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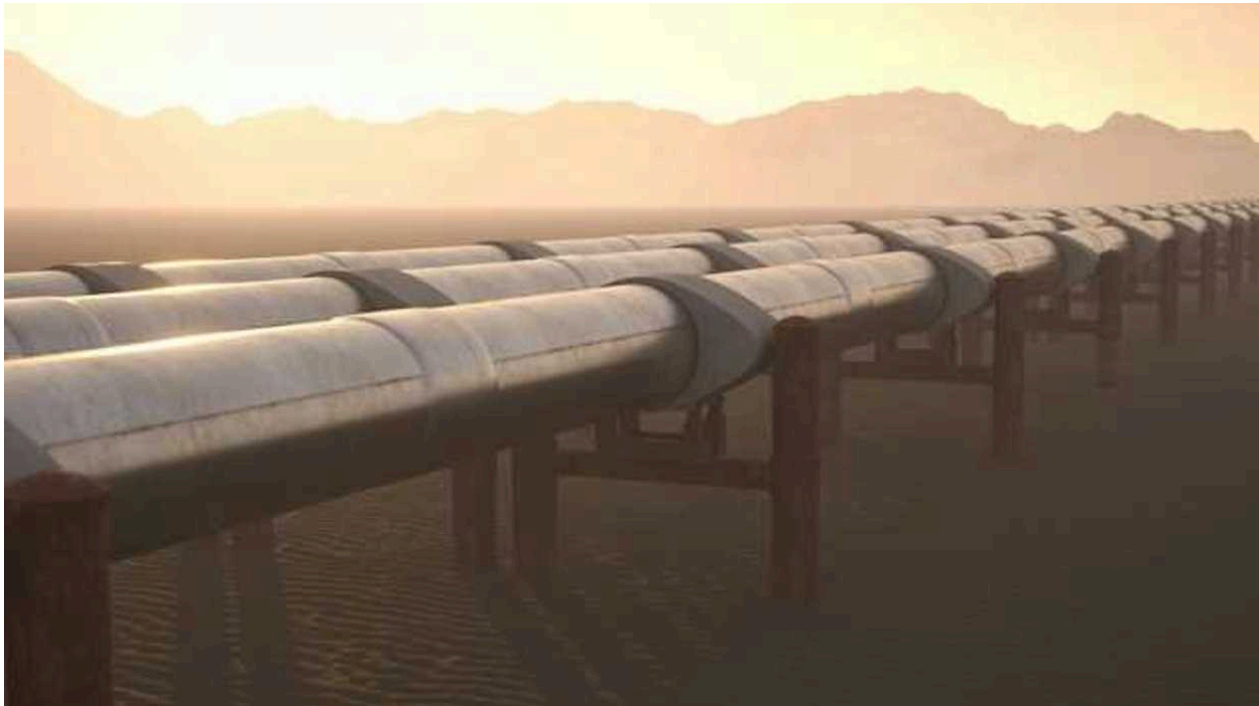


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