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Testimony to the FCC, May 17, 2020

Diana Kordas

Electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from cell towers, cellphones, cordless phones, Wi-Fi and all other sources is dangerous and unhealthy. It has harmed both my health and my husband's health, as a result of which neither of us is as healthy as we ought to be in spite of a good diet and a very active lifestyle, with lots of exercise—both of us, though in our early sixties, are in exceedingly good shape.

We did not know EMR was dangerous—why should we, when governments issue no warnings concerning its safety?—so when we rented a house near a cell tower on the island of Evia in 2005, we did not know it would make us sick. But it did. My husband developed severe asthma, which has tormented him ever since, and I became quite severely hypothyroid at the same time. Both of us became ill at the same time—within a year of moving in—and we have suffered the consequences ever since. I gained weight and couldn't lose it, my eyebrows fell out, and my mental processes slowed down. I was actually very sick. I eventually saw a doctor and found that my thyroid gland was covered in cysts. Artificial thyroid hormone eventually made me better, but if I don't get my thyroid medication, I will die, since I have very little natural thyroid function left. My husband often struggles to breathe, and asthma medications have unpleasant side-effects.

It took some time to work out what was making us sick, but we knew that whenever we went on an extended camping trip, where we tended to get far away from cell towers, we both felt better. Away from cell towers, my husband's breathing would improve considerably—till we went home again. We knew it was something to do with where we lived, but we didn't know what, since we were living in a small village by the sea with—as far as we knew—no pollution whatsoever. But of course EMR *is* pollution, whether you wish to recognize this or not.

Nor were we the only people in our neighborhood to be sick, as there were several women with breast cancer, one with a brain tumor, and many other

people with both asthma and thyroid complaints. None of us knew that the cell tower was to blame.

Even our dog was sick in this house, and she suffered from a series of ailments including a terribly rough, greasy coat and constant bouts of red mange that would clear up when we went away on the aforementioned trips. Yes, animals are just as affected by EMR as we are.

Eventually we moved away and came to the island of Samos where we live now. However, since 2005, cell tower radiation has ramped up everywhere, and we have gone from 2G to 3G, and then to 4G and LTE. And of course there is now Wi-Fi, which came to Greece in about 2011 and was adopted generally in public spaces from about 2012. This has had an enormous effect on people's health as well. On Samos, where there is no industrial pollution, health problems that were unheard-of years ago now abound. I grew up partly on this island in the 1960s, and I never knew a child with asthma. Now half the children I know seem to have it, and much more besides.

Most of the children—including teenagers—one sees are overweight, often obese, which is indicative of thyroid problems. Our local GP told us that he knew "many children with cancers which they ought not to have, and some have died." His patient list includes a number of young men with testicular cancer, another recent development and no doubt a result of keeping cellphones and smartphones in trouser pockets. Our local ear doctor tells me he is seeing an increasing number of patients with acoustic neuromas; he says that all ear doctors know that cellphones are to blame for this condition, but in the absence of official guidelines he can only advise patients to use their phones as little as possible.

In fact, ill health is rampant. I know several people with brain tumors—one, the daughter of a neighbor, recently died—any number of women with breast cancer, and neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimers and dementias are definitely on the rise here. What has changed is the amount of EMR in the environment. People live surrounded by cell towers, by Wi-Fi (their own and everyone else's) using mobile phones and walkaround phones (also wireless devices) and it is killing them.

Like most people, I was unaware of the health effects of EMR—until 2016, when I became very concerned about falling bird numbers and could not find any way to account for the declines except cell tower radiation (see the attachment, “Disappearing Birds of Samos”). The more research I did into EMR, the more I understood how my health, my husband’s health, other people’s health, and the natural world were being affected by this radiation.

And now you propose to increase the radiation burden still further by adding 5G to this toxic stew. You propose to place small cells everywhere, allow satellites to beam it down on us, in fact, to make it inescapable no matter where we go and what we do. You are, in short, proposing to kill this planet and everyone on it. I wish it on the record, therefore, that I object very strongly. I object to 5G, I object to 4G and LTE, I object to 3G and 2G and Wi-Fi in any form. I do not consent to this dangerous technology and it is my most fervent wish that it be abolished, now.