

My name is Alison Morrow Westover. I am a two-time Emmy winning broadcast journalist turned mother and farmer. I recently represented my neighborhood in its staunch opposition to a 185-foot-tall cell tower planned just a few hundred feet from homes in Crystal River, Florida.

Blue Sky Towers, IV LLC ("Blue Sky Towers"), a speculative cell tower site developer, sought to construct and operate a new 185-foot-tall commercial multi-carrier galvanized monopole tower at 8557 N Hatfield Terrace in Crystal River, FL 34428 (Site ID: FL-00444 – Citrus Application No. CU-2026-00003). Per the site plan provided by Blue Sky Towers, the proposed tower was slated to accommodate four "levels" of wireless antennas. The proposed lease area was 6,400 square feet. T-Mobile asserted a need for enhanced wireless coverage at and around the N Hatfield Terrace installation site. To justify this need, T-Mobile submitted unvalidated RF propagation maps. The maps provided failed to meet even the most basic scientific standards in the field of RF propagation analysis for two primary reasons. First, T-Mobile's "RF engineer" failed to specify the parameters used to generate T-Mobile's RF propagation maps, and second, T-Mobile failed to produce any real-world data to validate the accuracy of the model(s) used to generate its maps.

In direct contravention to the "evidence" provided by T-Mobile to support the installation of this tower, **the Federal Communication Commission's ("FCC") National Broadband Map demonstrates 100% outdoor 4G LTE and 5G-NR wireless coverage for T-Mobile, AT&T, and Verizon at and around the proposed N Hatfield Terrace installation site.** The FCC National Broadband Map also demonstrates 100% in-vehicle wireless coverage for AT&T and Verizon at and around the proposed N Hatfield Terrace installation site. The presence of 100% outdoor and in-vehicle AT&T and Verizon wireless coverage at and around the proposed installation site indicates that T-Mobile, with the proper engineering and antenna collocation configuration(s), can achieve the same or comparable levels of in-vehicle wireless coverage to AT&T and Verizon's in-vehicle coverage without the need for a new 185-foot-tall industrial structure at 8557 N Hatfield Terrace.

T-Mobile presents whatever coverage maps serve its present business goals. While claiming that our neighborhood "needs" a microsite, their website concurrently offers customers in our community "ultra capacity 5G service" already. If T-Mobile wants a tower somewhere – it hires an "RF engineer" (often someone with rudimentary knowledge of RF propagation and RF modeling) to submit a "study" showing a significant gap in wireless coverage at and around the proposed installation area. If T-Mobile wants customers, it presents maps that

show that its wireless coverage is the best around.

Through my journey fighting this totally unnecessary steel monstrosity from being installed in our residential area, I have come to learn that wireless telecommunications companies are intentionally deceitful or misleading when presenting applications for wireless facility projects before local planning and zoning boards. The attorney for BlueSky Towers the company seeking to profit off the tower, spent half of her presentation bullying and misleading our commissioners into believing they had virtually no rights to deny the tower even though the tower did not comport with our ordinance. She cited the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which censors citizens true concerns about the documented health and environmental effects of radiofrequency ("RF") radiation exposure. Though we have 1st Amendment rights to speak about such effects, our local governing body cannot take those concerns into account when deciding where a cell tower should and shouldn't go. This ridiculous reality forced our community to focus our argument against the proposed tower on its incompatibility with the character of our neighborhood and T-Mobile's lack of probative evidence that a significant gap in coverage exists at and around the proposed installation site. Our silence on the issue of RF radiation means the public record of the cell tower hearing is absent of these pressing, very real concerns. The media coverage reflects this "black hole" as well. This means that the incredibly robust body of peer-reviewed, published scientific studies demonstrating serious biological harm associated with or linked to RF radiation and EMF remains a conspiracy in the eyes of the general public, governing officials, landowners, and healthcare practitioners – because we're all barred from talking about it if we want to properly stop an unnecessary and improperly-sited cell tower from being installed.

Due to my background in journalism and public speaking skills, I was able to successfully lead our neighborhood effort against a trillion-dollar industry. But the average citizen would have found this a daunting - if not impossible - task. It is an understatement to say that this is not a fair fight. The protections granted to the "Cellular Industrial Complex" (as I now like to call it) by the federal government pave the way for wireless companies and cell tower site developers to run roughshod over our communities. Successfully thwarting this tower turned into a near full-time job for me and took both physical and emotional tolls on myself and my family. I walked from house to house raising awareness about the tower proposal (since only those within 500 feet of the proposed installation site received notice of the tower) - garnering signatures for our petition, instructing people about how to attend the Planning Commission meetings and how to email a public statement in opposition to the proposal. I had to become a quasi-attorney, RF engineer, community activist and more within a matter of weeks. I did this while also continuing my life as a full-time mom and a farmer who cares for

nearly 50 animals.

While battling the telecommunications industry is extremely time consuming, stressful, and at times, demoralizing, I am very glad HHS is focused on the health and environmental effects of RF and EMFs more generally. EMFs are arguably among the most pervasive environmental exposures in modern society, and the fact that we still lack a comprehensive understanding of their potential long-term health effects is a very serious public health matter.

HHS should take a leading role in establishing health-based RF radiation exposure standards that reflect the best available scientific evidence and current/projected use patterns of wireless devices. The world's biggest insurance companies like Swiss Re have EMF exclusions in their policies because they understand the risks of wireless radiation exposure. Congress should consider legislation establishing a formal role for HHS in setting or approving these standards, in coordination with the FCC, whose current limits have not been updated in over 30 years. Decisions about acceptable levels of human exposure to RF radiation should be grounded in independent scientific assessment and public health expertise, rather than left primarily to an agency that has no health expertise whatsoever.

I also ask that HHS urge members of Congress to amend Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to allow our local governing authorities the ability to consider the health and environmental effects of wireless radiation when deciding where wireless facilities should and should not go within our communities. Equally troubling is the lack of meaningful legal recourse for individuals who suffer harm from wireless radiation exposure, particularly where federal law and regulatory standards constrain the ability to raise these concerns. No individual should be left without an avenue to seek justice because the law fails to adequately account for health risks.

Our county codes, health recommendations and building permits reflect outdated science and it is time to update policies with the known science of EMF / RF radiation harm. The bottom line is this: The rapid expansion of wireless technology must not continue to outpace our commitment to protecting human health, the environment, and the rights of our communities.