

## **Dear President Trump and Esteemed Members of Congress:**

Wireless technology undoubtedly provides amazing benefits for society. However, there is also a dark side: a hidden, and growing, social cost that needs to be addressed at the Federal level.

Wireless technologies are literally disabling millions of Americans, in the form of a condition called “Electromagnetic Sensitivity” or “EMS.” People with this condition suffer a range of symptoms including headaches, heart palpitations, and tinnitus. Prevalence is estimated at 3-5% of the population, and growing. (If this seems hard to believe, please note that the condition and the number of people afflicted are serious enough that Federal Access Board has identified EMS as a disability, and these individuals are eligible for Federal disability benefits.)

There is no known treatment for EMS, other than avoidance of electromagnetic fields (EMFs), in particular the radio-frequency (RF) fields emitted by cell phones, cell towers and antennas, wireless routers and access points, and smart meters, but also including fluorescent light bulbs and other electronic devices.

The personal cost of this illness is tremendous- it is ruining people’s lives. Avoidance of RF fields is getting harder and harder, with the expansion of the infrastructure supporting cellular phones. Some people with EMS cannot even spend time in populated areas or public buildings due to the symptoms they experience. It is increasingly hard to find a place to live or work that is not saturated by RF signal from cell towers and antennas and/or residential Wi-Fi. Children who develop EMS are being pulled out of school because they cannot tolerate the ambient wireless network exposure. People who were never sensitive to RF signal in the past are becoming ill when utility companies install Smart Meters on their homes.

As if all of this weren’t hard enough, individuals with EMS face major legislative and institutional barriers and threats:

- The anticipated 5G infrastructure deployment (supported by the MOBILE NOW and DIGIT bills now in the Senate) would put more and higher frequency RF-emitters even closer together, making it even more difficult for those with EMS to function in society or even find a place to exist without disabling symptoms.

- Parents seeking to address Wi-Fi exposure in schools meet resistance and ridicule from school personnel

- Utility companies are not willing and not required to remove smart meters from people’s homes, even when they are making the resident sick.

- The FCC has proposed regulations to discontinue the land-line phone infrastructure. (Most) people with EMS cannot use cell phones in any meaningful way, and are dependent on corded landlines. This would be devastating for them.

- Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits municipalities from regulating the placement of wireless facilities (cell antennas and towers) on the grounds of human or environmental health. This means that towns and individuals with EMS have no way to stop a cell carrier from installing a tower or antenna in places where it would be detrimental to someone’s health (e.g., right next to the home of someone with EMS).

In addition to the tremendous toll EMS is taking on people's lives, there is a huge cost to society. Literally millions of otherwise healthy, productive individuals are unable to work or contribute to society. And many of them are beginning to draw disability benefits.

The key difference between EMS and other forms of disability is that it is not caused by accident or "fate." It is caused by our own technology. This means that the cause is within our control.

There are clear societal benefits to wireless technology, and it is not the intention of this petition to ban or restrict it unnecessarily. But there are also clear harms. In addition to the acute and immediate harm evidenced by EMS, there are over 25,000 non-industry sponsored research studies indicating the potential for serious adverse health effects including cancer, psychiatric issues, and reproductive and neurological damage. The developing brains of children are believed to be the most vulnerable to wireless radiation.

To date, public policy has acted to expand the reach of wireless technology, with little or no protection for the public from its dangers. In light of the growing epidemic of EMS, and the huge volume of research indicating long-term health hazards, it is time to re-evaluate and re-design our policies in order to better balance the benefits with the dangers.

There are several important and inter-related issues having to do with RF exposure that need to be addressed as a whole. This petition aims to bring them all under one roof. The goal is to establish a framework of regulation that would support the use and development of wireless technology while effectively protecting the next generation and those with EMS, and while providing the general public with education and choice regarding chronic levels of RF exposure.

**Federal Actions that would support this goal:**

- 1) Vote "No" on MOBILE NOW (S.19) and DIGIT (S.88) Acts
- 2) Create a Federal Commission (not the FCC) to study both the acute and long-term hazards of EMF exposure. This commission should be free of influence from the telecom industry.
- 3) Lower the FCC Safety Limits in accordance with above.
- 4) Repeal (or re-write) Section 704 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act to give both municipalities and individuals more power to determine personal and community RF exposure levels and to protect sensitive individuals and children
- 5) Regulate cell facility emissions, including regular testing and enforcement
- 6) Develop "best practices" regulations for Wi-Fi in schools
- 7) Ban Smart Meters, or make them 100% optional
- 8) Create legislation to maintain our national land-line telephone infrastructure
- 9) Establish RF-free "white zones" throughout the US, where sensitive individuals and those who choose to minimize their exposure to RF radiation can live.
- 10) Remove barriers to the purchase of incandescent light bulbs.