



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Bringing Science and Passion to the Environmental Health Movement

STEERING COMMITTEE

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April 8, 2021

Assembly Member Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry
Chair Assembly Local Government Committee
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 157
State Capitol Sacramento CA 95814

RE: AB 537 OPPOSE

Dear Chairwoman Aguiar-Curry and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for having the concerns of local government and local communities as a priority.

In California the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments focuses on preventing illness and protecting health by ensuring healthy environments and communities. We oppose AB 537 because it takes away the authority of local governments to plan their communities, to protect the safety of local residents and to protect the aesthetics of the community.

Our surroundings, our parks and open spaces, our streetscapes affect our health. The FCC has already imposed restrictions and time limits for local government approval of antenna permits. This bill makes it even easier for telecom carrier permits to be approved without proper planning and public input.

Telecom carriers must be required submit complete and accurate applications based on local zoning rules. This bill will diminish both State and local ability to regulate this industry and protect the public.

The COVID pandemic has greatly increased the use of the internet to communicate. Sometimes people have lost connections or been “zoom bombed.” Wireless connections are not secure. Telemedicine requires wired internet. We do not need more antennas; we need better WIRED internet to and into every building. Local governments throughout the country are implementing MUNICIPAL wired internet as a PUBLIC UTILITY. Many of these are public/private partnerships and serve two purposes, first they allow the elected LOCAL governments to regulate prices and ensure an **end** to the digital divide and second, these utilities raise money for the **local** municipality.

Technology is advancing quickly; the Federal stimulus bill has major funding for broadband but favors WIRED rather than wireless because it is easier to upgrade. It is also more reliable, more secure, and safer in catastrophic weather events and fires. It is also **energy efficient!**

The California ANHE Leadership Council has been active advocating for actions that will REDUCE Climate Change because of the many acute and chronic health consequences directly caused by the warming of our planet.

Wireless antennas require **much more energy** because they need to be closer together and there are often many antennas per pole each with its own electricity source. It is a mistake to facilitate the proliferation of this “energy guzzling” technology when WIRED internet: Fiberoptic To and Through FTTP the premises will save energy, help reduce climate change and can be a municipal resource.

Please oppose AB 537. We can Build Back Better for our students, our communities and our planet.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sattler RN, DrPH
Board Member ANHE