



Honorable Ro Khanna
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: **OPPOSE HR [2289](#) The American Broadband Deployment Act** and **OPPOSE** House Bills related to **FCC Build America: Eliminating Barriers to Wireless and Wireline Deployments - House Bills** HR [1343](#), HR [1588](#), HR [1665](#), HR [1681](#), HR [1731](#), and HR [6046](#)

Date: April 18, 2026

Dear Representative Khanna:

Physicians for Safe Technology is a group of physicians, scientists and advocates who promote the safer use of technology in homes, schools, workplaces, healthcare settings and communities.

We ask you to OPPOSE several house bills related to the current administration's and the FCC's recent deregulatory agenda for Big Tech. These bills strip what remains of local control by cities and municipalities to enforce basic safeguards like setbacks, safety review, and community input over wireless and wireless infrastructure under the guise of "streamlining" review of telecommunications.

Please **OPPOSE** HR [1343](#), HR [1588](#), HR [1665](#), HR [1681](#), HR [1731](#), HR [2289](#) (**[the American Broadband Act](#)**) and HR [6046](#),

The telecommunications industry is pushing its powerful political levers to finally remove any meaningful local governmental or public oversight in the placement of 5G, cell towers or AI systems with this set of three overreaching federal regulatory pathways designed to supersede already constrained municipal authority. Using the **Federal Communications Commission (FCC), federal legislation and Executive Orders**, industry is pushing to deregulate telecommunications by reforming local permitting rules to remove what it considers "regulatory barriers" to the acceleration of new telecommunications technology using wireless and wireline infrastructure. By deregulating telecom rather than understanding the risks and strengthening regulations these rulings also threaten privacy, security, identity, human rights, environmental health, human health, planetary health, and democracy with **the loss of citizen rights, municipal rights and states' rights.**

The triad of deregulatory regulations poised to remove local control, public input and environment or historic preservation review in the rapid deployment of cell towers and AI are:

- 1) **The recent FCC** Notices of Rulemaking, *Build America: Eliminating Barriers to Wireless and Wireline Deployments*; [FCC 25-253](#) and [FCC 25-276](#) to further remove local government control in the placement of cell towers.
- 2) **The legislative push** to secure these FCC Proposals into law with HR [1343](#), HR [1588](#), HR [1665](#), HR [1681](#), HR [1731](#), **HR [2289](#)** and HR [6046](#), in order to "streamline" telecommunications over local government control and citizen input.
- 3) **Executive Orders [14179](#), [14192](#), [14219](#)** as well as **Executive Actions on AI ([Winning the Race America's AI Action Plan July 2025](#))** and **6G** for implantable devices and robotic devices to connect with AI (**[Winning the 6G Race Dec 19, 2025](#)**) that are designed to unleash an unprecedented era of deregulation in the United States with a primary goal of "updating existing Federal regulatory frameworks to remove barriers to and encourage adoption of AI applications across sectors."

Data Centers Deregulated

In addition, “These plans include artificial intelligence (AI) data centers and infrastructure that powers them, including high-voltage transmission lines and other equipment.”, with a priority to facilitate “the rapid and efficient buildout of this infrastructure by easing Federal regulatory burdens.” This is in the setting of no AI regulation in the U.S. We are in great need of regulation that is stronger than the European AI Act of 2024. (See references)

The 6G order will unleash untested implantable technologies for communications networks with no accountability as to how these will be used with or without robots, stating in convincing language, “*The next generation of mobile communications networks (6G) will be foundational to the national security, foreign policy, and economic prosperity of the United States. This technology will play a pivotal role in the development and adoption of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, robotics, and implantable technologies. 6G will also provide faster, more resilient, and more secure communication networks that can be utilized for national security and public safety purposes.*”

We oppose these massive deregulatory FCC proposals that further remove local municipal control in the siting of cell towers, and consider them to be impractical, burdensome to communities, a threat to public health, a threat to environmental health, a moral hazard and likely to have legal challenges. In addition, AI expansion requires facilitation by the vast and expanding telecom network. Without regulatory guardrails these proposals carry huge personal and societal risks. Executive orders to prevent states regulation of AI are contrary to common sense and now challenged by 36 state attorney generals.

Powerful Telecom Pushing Forward without Guardrails

We ask that you oppose these FCC proposals and bills which will solidify in law the telecom industry’s unobstructed power, without recourse or remedy when faced with the failures and unintended consequences of AI, cell tower safety issues and environmental harm. These laws will help fuel the AI revolution which requires oil and pure water for data centers, and rare earth minerals (Greenland). Geopolitical conflict will be further activated. **AI may deliver some benefits but is expected to infringe on democratic and ethical principles**, in addition to furthering environmental decline and climate change. Governments that can control information and misinformation disseminated across their online space can thereby “inevitably influence large swathes of the Internet—which may then be used to train AI” influencing public perception and influencing elections, further affecting democratic systems.

Data Centers are Resource and Energy Vampires

Data centers which are pivotal in AI advancement are underregulated and on a collision course with local and state governments. They have already and continue to create havoc in communities across the nation competing for precious clean water and energy. Chat GPT and other large language models, use exponentially more computing power than traditional cloud services. Technology companies such as Amazon, Meta, Google and Microsoft have already incorporated AI systems often hidden in the platforms and some are difficult to opt out of as they are merged with other “smart” features. This makes it difficult for the average citizen to reduce energy use. Regulation is needed in this openly deregulatory administration.

FCC “safety” Guidelines for Radiofrequency Radiation are Obsolete and Need Updating

In *Environmental Health Trust v. FCC* (D.C. Circuit, 2021), the court ruled that the FCC acted arbitrarily and capriciously by refusing to update its decades-old radiofrequency (RF) exposure guidelines and by failing to adequately address evidence related to noncancer health effects, impacts on children, environmental harm, and cumulative exposure. It’s time we the public are guaranteed protections.

Telecommunications is a Business with Undue Political Influence and Allowed to Ignore the Public Interest

Telecommunications has evolved into a business less about communicating and more about transforming the “network” to enable data collection, mass surveillance and artificial intelligence (AI), in order to transform “the way we live and work”. The consumer is now the consumed. This is admittedly to “unlock opportunities” for

industry profit, although it is heavily marketed as tools for our “benefit”. And it does sound good. Optimizing network performance, enhancing efficiency, and fully transforming our telecom connected world into a seamlessly AI generated system. Unfortunately the combination social media and AI have recently unleashed dangers to our children, the most vulnerable in our society with “[digital undressing](#)”. Have we finally arrived to open the door for man to step willingly into the Matrix with its central black box of AI generated content for humans to consume with or without our consent? Perhaps, however, some thought needs to be given to the downsides of our hyperconnected world and consider regulation before accelerated telecommunications expansion with embedded AI quickly becomes an unwelcome reality we will be unable to escape.

Big Tech, Big Oil, Big Tobacco, Big Pharma, et al. use a tried and true playbook to influence science, influence public perception, block protective regulation and capture the agencies that are supposed to regulate them. The legislature also has a playbook to counter undue industry influence to protect consumers. We ask that these policies be refreshed, augmented and used again.

The European Artificial Intelligence Act

The European Artificial Intelligence Act was passed in 2024 and came into effect in February 2, 2025. AI systems are required to be transparent, reliable, and accountable throughout their life cycle. As of February 2, 2025, the EU AI Act specifically prohibits placing on the market, putting into service in the EU, or use of AI systems in the EU in the following areas:

- **AI systems that deploy subliminal techniques** beyond a person’s consciousness to materially distort a person’s behavior.
- **AI systems that exploit vulnerabilities** of specific groups (e.g., age, physical or mental disability, or socioeconomic status) to materially distort a person’s behavior.
- **AI systems that infer emotions of natural persons** in employment or educational settings.
- **Creating or expanding facial recognition** databases through untargeted scraping of images from the internet or CCTV.
- **Biometric categorization systems** that classify individuals based on biometric data or use such data to infer protected characteristics such as race, political opinions, trade union membership, religious or philosophical beliefs, sex life or sexual orientation.
- **Real-time biometric identification** used for law enforcement purposes in publicly accessible spaces.
- **Social scoring** by public authorities where individuals are evaluated based on their social behavior, or perceived personality traits, leading to detrimental or discriminatory treatment.
- **Predictions of criminal conduct** by law enforcement based on profiling, past criminal behavior, or other data that perpetuate bias or discrimination. (<https://www.huit.harvard.edu/eu-ai-act>)

The FCC’s “Build America: Eliminating Barriers to Wireless and Wireline Deployments” agenda is part of their “[Delete, Delete, Delete](#)” proceeding, which the FCC “seeks comment on every rule, regulation, or guidance document that the FCC should eliminate for the purposes of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens.” They state it is the next step in the “Administration’s decision to usher in prosperity through [deregulation](#)” (Executive Order [14192](#)). This is not only for the unobstructed deployment of wireless antennas and cell towers, but also includes removing “obsolete technology”, i.e. copper landlines which are critical in rural areas and in emergencies as the CPUC found in California ([CPUC 2024](#)). These actions give more power to an already powerful industry and remove it from municipalities and ordinary citizens.

Counties, Cities, Mayors and Telecommunication Officers OPPOSE These Rulings

Counties, cities, mayors and telecommunication officers have expressed their dismay and concern over these recent rulings in many [letters to the FCC](#). In one [letter](#) they note the FCC proposals will, “strip local governments of their ability to responsibly manage public assets in the rights-of-way”, leading to public safety issues. A 2022 [Report](#) “Feeling the Squeeze” found the original 2018 Small Cell Order preemption had a negative impact on cities’ finances, created challenges for public safety and interfered with efforts to close the digital divide.

Again- The triad of regulations poised to remove local control, public input and environment or historic preservation in review in the rapid deployment of cell towers and AI are:

***FCC: Build America: Eliminating Barriers to Wireless and Wireline Deployments-** [FCC 25-253](#), [FCC 25-276](#))

***House Bills:**

HR [1343](#), HR [1588](#), HR [1665](#), HR [1681](#), HR [1731](#), **HR [2289](#)** and HR [6046](#)

***Executive Orders:**

Executive Order [14179](#) “Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence”.
January 23, 2025

Executive Order [14192](#) - Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, or “Delete, Delete, Delete”.

Executive Order [14219](#) - “Ensuring Lawful Governance And Implementing The President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency’ Deregulatory Initiative.”

Executive Order ACCELERATING FEDERAL PERMITTING OF DATA CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE. July 23, 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/accelerating-federal-permitting-of-data-center-infrastructure/>

We ask that you review these issues carefully and understand the underlying issues, real risks and power shift that is occurring. Problematic AI is large part of this and we hope you are working on legislation regarding this.

Note again that on November 25, 2025, a bipartisan coalition of 36 state attorneys general sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leaders urging them to reject proposals for a federal moratorium prohibiting states from enacting or enforcing laws addressing artificial intelligence (AI). This is a wonderful strategy to counter Big Tech.

Many thanks for your foresight and wisdom in addressing these world changing proposals without guardrails. You are appreciated by your constituency. We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Cindy Russell, MD
Executive Director,
Physicians for Safe Technology

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FCC FACT SHEET* Delete, Delete, Delete In re: Delete, Delete, Delete Direct Final Rule – GN Docket No. 25-133. <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-415572A1.pdf>

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HR 1343, HR 1588, HR 1665, HR 1681, HR 1731, **HR 2289** and HR 6046

H.R. 1343 - Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act. 19th Congress (2025-2026). Pfluger (R-Tx). [“To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes... and note any potential barriers to implementing the plan that are identified by the Assistant Secretary.]

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1343> AND <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr1343/BILLS-119hr1343ih.xml>

H.R. 1588 - Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act. 19th Congress (2025-2026). Miller-Meeks (R-IA-1) [“To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to report to Congress on any barriers to establishing online portals to accept, process, and dispose of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes.” This applies to public lands and National Forest Service lands. Monitors and speeds up the application process, holding municipalities accountable to rapidly approve permits.] <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1588/all-actions> AND <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr1588/BILLS-119hr1588ih.pdf>

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H.R.1731 - Standard FEES Act to Expedite Evaluation and Streamlining Act. 19th Congress (2025-2026). Gary (R-AL) [The Administrator of General Services establishes a uniform schedule of fees and removes ability of municipalities to set their own fees] <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1731> AND <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr1731/BILLS-119hr1731ih.pdf>

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H.R.6046 - Broadband and Telecommunications RAIL Act. 19th Congress (2025-2026). Joyce (R-PA). [“To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to streamline the deployment of telecommunications or broadband service facilities in the public rights-of-way and the rights-of-way of railroad carriers, and for other purposes.” And of there is already a prior permit authorized the carrier “is not required to submit an application to the railroad carrier under subsection (b) 26 with respect to the placement or modification.”, but only schedule a date for coordination.]
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“Responsible AI use has the potential to help solve urgent challenges while making our world more prosperous, productive, innovative, and secure. At the same time, irresponsible use could exacerbate societal harms such as fraud, discrimination, bias, and disinformation; displace and disempower workers; stifle competition; and pose risks to national security. Harnessing AI for good and realizing its myriad benefits requires mitigating its substantial risks. This endeavor demands a society-wide effort that includes government, the private sector, academia, and civil society. (a) Artificial Intelligence must be safe and secure. Supporting and include American workers in development. advance equity and civil rights, provide consumer protections, protect Americans' privacy and civil liberties must be protected, manage the risks from the Federal Government's own use of AI. Effective leadership also means pioneering those systems and safeguards needed to deploy technology responsibly—and building and promoting those safeguards with the rest of the world.

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Whatever Industry Wants: How the FCC Is Steamrolling Locals in the Cell Tower Rollout

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