

**Historic Action by Massachusetts Association of Health Boards  
regarding radio frequency radiation exposures, health, and safety**

The Millis Town Meeting "Citizen's Petition" is an opportunity for Millis to *also* be on the right side of history.

**Please vote for Millis' administration to send statements of concern and requests for action to state and federal decision-makers regarding the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) regulatory gap, and lack of adequate protection for health and the environment**

*(including requiring the FCC to comply w/ the Court ruling against the FCC regarding reliance on 1996 exposure limits)*



**Feb. 2023 Testimony by the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards in support of the Pittsfield Board of Health and the Tower Lawsuit:** *"In November of 2017, the Pittsfield Zoning Board of Appeals granted a land use permit to Verizon Wireless to install a 115-foot monopole tower at 877 South Street, Pittsfield. The tower was eventually constructed and was activated on August 4, 2020, and began transmitting on August 21, 2020. Within a short time of the start of operating that tower, the city began receiving reports of illness from the surrounding community. In response to these complaints, in January of 2021, the City Council requested that the Board of Health investigate. A fifteen month investigation ensued, ending in April of 2022. The Board of Health held a series of public hearings and meetings and consequently determined that **there were, in fact, a group of residents who had been harmed by RF radiation determined to have been transmitted by the wireless facility.** The Pittsfield Board of Health*

*laid out the fact that its study found that people living in the so-called "Shack Town" district of Pittsfield were complaining of **headaches, sleep problems, heart palpitations, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), dizziness, nausea, skin rashes, and memory and cognitive problems, among other medical complaints.** These symptoms experienced by the residents are consistent with those described in the peer-reviewed scientific and medical literature as being associated with exposure to pulsed and modulated Radio Frequency ("RF") radiation, including RF from cell towers.*



One of several families driven from their homes by the Verizon tower in Pittsfield, MA. This can happen to anyone, anywhere.



<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ed0007ce169954ee17b10b/t/63eaedf7591d4b6208e3999e1676340728040/Amicus+Letter+MAHB+021223+.pdf> and [https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/central\\_berkshires/pittsfield-cell-tower-opponents-find-ally-in-massachusetts-association-of-health-boards/article\\_d916049c-ad82-11ed-a361-ff9f8dc734c8.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/central_berkshires/pittsfield-cell-tower-opponents-find-ally-in-massachusetts-association-of-health-boards/article_d916049c-ad82-11ed-a361-ff9f8dc734c8.html)

**See Propublica's "How the FCC Shields Cellphone Companies From Safety Concerns"** about the Pittsfield Tower.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/fcc-5g-wireless-safety-cellphones-risk> Pittsfield is, by far, not the first or only community where health complaints associated with wireless exposures have been ignored and denied by industry, regulators, and politicians.

See **MA4SafeTechnology** about MA tower, zoning, and bylaw news stories, upcoming educational events and community forums.

See **Peer Reviewed Published Research** on Cell Tower Radiation, Base Station Radiation and Health Effects:

<https://ehtrust.org/cell-towers-and-cell-antennae/compilation-of-research-studies-on-cell-tower-radiation-and-health/>

**Property Values** at risk: <https://www.emfanalysis.com/property-values-declining-cell-towers>

**Ct. Sen. Blumenthal questioning the telecom industry about health and safety research, "We're Flying Blind Here"**

<https://ehtrust.org/health-effects-of-5g-wireless-technology-confirmed-at-us-senate-hearing-after-senator-blumenthal-questions-industry/>

**Please vote in support of this simple action that Millis can take, to help evolve science, safeguard the environment, protect future generations, and bend the arc of justice.**

*Communities can be connected...but also protected*

## Why Should Millis Residents Join Those Concerned About Wireless Exposures and Health?\*

1. Increased, ubiquitous, untested, unmonitored, juxtaposed exposures
2. Impending roll-out of next generation wireless utility meters by Ngrid and Eversource\*\*

\*(Citizen's petitions have also been filed in Great Barrington, Upton, Southborough, and Sheffield)



**1984** The date of most recent publication by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding RF/EMF, *nearly 40 years ago*. In 1984, the Motorola DynaTAC was the first commercially available portable handheld cell phone. The phone was 9-inches tall, weighed 2.5 pounds, had 30 minutes of battery life, and sold for \$4,000. Phones are smaller, more powerful, and more ubiquitous. So is the **infrastructure**. Bylaws restricted to size, placement, and aesthetics are not protective of communities. In addition, the industry is reportedly using new spectrum, faster cellular networks, and WiFi, insidiously increasing exposures, without public hearings and notification. <https://potsandpansbyccg.com/2023/02/28/where-are-the-small-cell-sites/> The Environmental Protection Agency currently has no funded mandate for radio frequencies. <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Letter-to-Biden-on-Infrastructure--FCC-Environmental-Health-Trust-.pdf> The industry has filed patents for safer applications, but regulators have focused on facilitating faster, more lucrative earnings.

**Section 704 of The Telecommunications Act of 1996** "No State or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions [ ]." The regulation is widely interpreted to include prohibition of regulation on the basis of safeguarding health. **Since 1996**, the industry has been operating with the equivalent of no speed limits, no guardrails, no accident reports, and no seatbelts regarding health and the environment.

**2009** Reports of **microwave illness** emerged coinciding with installation of **wireless 'smart' utility meters** across the country.

<https://pa.childrenshealthdefense.org/news/health/expert-testimony-from-someone-harmed-by-smart-meter-radiation/> \*\*Senator Michael Moore's (Worcester) MA smart meter opt out bill includes an emergency preamble to protect health. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD1508> The basis of 2014 claims about smart meter safety by the MA Dept. of Public Utilities is highly compromised. <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/smart-meter-state-legislation/>

**2013-2019** The FCC solicited commentary on the adequacy of its radio frequency exposure guidelines. The FCC closed the proceeding in 2019, taking no action, and reaffirming 1996 exposure guidelines (when portable phones weighed 2.5 pounds and were only used by adults), without justification.

**2021** United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the 2019 decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to retain its **1996 safety limits** for human exposure to wireless radiation was "arbitrary and capricious" and "**not evidence-based.**" The court ruled that the FCC failed to address

- impacts of long term wireless exposure,
- impacts to children,
- testimony of people injured by wireless radiation,
- impacts to wildlife and the environment

[https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/FB976465BF00F8BD85258730004EFD7/\\$file/20-1025-1910111.pdf](https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/FB976465BF00F8BD85258730004EFD7/$file/20-1025-1910111.pdf)

**2023** The Court's order to the FCC to justify its decision remains unaddressed, as does the overrun of the Americans w/Disabilities Act, as noted by the City of Boston testimony. There are no protections in place for health-vulnerable individuals. (*Canary in a Gold Mine* performance by the Piti Theatre group in MA is based on a true story <https://ptco.org/shows/canary/>).



We request that the Town of Millis pro-actively advocate for its residents, supporting similar efforts in Pittsfield, MA, by sending correspondence to State Senator Rebecca Rausch; State Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy and Rep. James Arena-DeRosa; Federal Congress Member Jake Auchincloss; Senators Warren and Markey; the MA Legislature; the MA Governor and Attorney General; the MA Municipal Association; the MA Dept of Health; the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; the MA Dept of Public Utilities; and the FCC; stating,

*"The residents of Millis, MA voted at their annual town meeting to notify you of urgent concerns regarding the safety of wireless infrastructure for human health and the environment, and request that immediate state and federal action be pursued to require the FCC to address the 2021 court ruling regarding its exposure guidelines, and that the federal regulatory gap be addressed, so that the town is not misled and misinformed in approving infrastructure on the basis of outdated guidelines that are not evidence-based, thereby endangering public health, disability rights, community rights, wildlife, and the nature environment."*