



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 8, 2017

The Honorable John Delaney
U.S. House of Representatives
1632 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Delaney:

Thank you for your letter concerning the placement of small cell antennas in Montgomery County. To meet the extraordinary growth in demand that will be placed on mobile networks by 5G technologies and services, providers will need to densify their networks. While facilities used for these networks are smaller and less obtrusive than traditional cell towers and antennas, they must be deployed in many more locations to function effectively. As you note, in places such as Montgomery County, many wireless providers are already seeking to deploy small cells and distributed antenna systems to meet localized needs for coverage and increased capacity.

The Commission recognizes that localities play an important role in preserving local interests such as aesthetics and structural safety. The Commission also has a statutory mandate to facilitate the deployment of network facilities needed to deliver more robust wireless services to consumers. As such, the FCC continues to work with industry and local governments to develop and encourage sensible siting regulation practices. For example, in late January, I announced the creation of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC) to explore ways to accelerate deployment of high-speed Internet access nationwide and to close the digital divide. Among other matters, the BDAC will be directed to draft for the Commission's consideration state and local model codes covering local franchising, zoning, permitting, and rights-of-way regulations. Over 380 individuals applied to serve on the BDAC, the members of the Committee were announced on April 6, and the Committee held its first meeting on April 21.

In regards to your comments on radiofrequency (RF) exposure, the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) have issued recommendations for human exposure to RF fields. Both the NCRP and IEEE guidelines were developed by scientists and engineers with extensive experience and knowledge in the area of RF biological effects and related issues. These individuals spent a considerable amount of time evaluating published scientific studies, including studies of the health status of exposed persons, relevant to establishing safe levels for human exposure to RF energy.

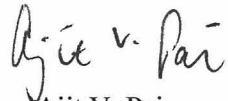
The FCC's guidelines for human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields are based on recommendations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other federal health and safety agencies. These FCC guidelines were derived from exposure limits recommended by the NCRP and IEEE to ensure that FCC-regulated transmitters do not expose the public or workers to levels of RF energy that are considered by expert organizations to be potentially harmful.

Please know that the FCC is continually monitoring the issue of RF exposure and related health and safety concerns, both in the general terms of the continuing propriety of its regulations, and in

individual cases where substantive concerns are raised. You may find additional information on the Commission's web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety>.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congressman, I don't believe we've had the pleasure of meeting, but I hope that changes soon. In the meantime, I noticed that you're on the Board of Directors of the National Symphony Orchestra. Thanks for your work supporting the NSO! As a classically-trained violinist, I've come to treasure their performances and contributions to the arts.