



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford CT

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella and Committee Member Reps. Giordano, McMullen, Palomba and Sherwood. Absent or excused were Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Lutz, Matherne and Pratt. Also in attendance were Rep. Miller; Rep. Di Costanzo; Dr. Jennifer Calder, Director and Lisa Konopko, Assistant Director, Health Department; Ted Jankowski, Director, Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Frank Clegg, President/CEO, Canadians for Safe Technology; and Patricia Wood, Executive Director, Grassroots Environmental Education.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PS30.050	REVIEW; Information Session on 5G. 01/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt, Sherwood, Aquila, Cottrell, Matherne, Zelinsky, Giordano, Graziosi, Adams and McGarry	Report Made

Ms. Wood and Mr. Clegg explained the current issues surrounding the wireless industry and 5G. The Environmental Health Trust <https://ehtrust.org/resources-to-share/expert-briefings/> and Canadians for Safe Technology <http://c4st.org/research/> have many documents concerning the safety of the wireless industry.

Some points that were discussed during the meeting:

- The FCC is responsible for setting guidelines and regulations for the US wireless industry, but these guidelines have not been updated since 1996.
- In 10 years there will 500 billion wireless devices in the world.
- There have been widely used products where research was published about the dangers years before government agencies took action, such as cigarette smoking, asbestos and thalidomide.
- Dr. Calder explained the State of CT does not yet have an official position on 5G because there have not been sufficient studies on the health risks. The State is waiting for additional studies. She will reach out to the State Dept. of Health regarding any updates on the official position.
- The State of CT has precautions for cellular devices listed on its website.
- The health impact is not yet known on the differences between 3G, 4G and 5G.

- FCC guidelines are needed. New technology is vital but needs guidelines. Every wireless device has warnings explaining where and how to use it, but these warnings are not put in an obvious place in the manuals.
- Antennas are on 24/7, unlike a wireless device which a person can turn off.
- Antennas could be very small and installed in many places.
- People should have a choice of how much radiation comes into their homes.
- The current cell towers provide sufficient infrastructure for 911 responses. Videos are driving the wave of more powerful cell towers.
- The State of NH has passed a bill to create a committee specifically to study 5G opportunities and risks.
- The wireless industry needs to educate the public.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).