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Re: Testimony In Support of LD 878

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and members of the EUT Committee:

I am writing in support of L.D. 878. My perspective in supporting this legislation is as a former member of formal New Hampshire Commission that was convened to answer questions regarding the impacts and safety of cell towers and wireless radiation. The New Hampshire Commission was formed through bipartisan legislation (House Bill 522 in 2019) that was passed by both houses of the legislature and was signed by Governor Sununu. To ensure that the findings of the New Hampshire Commission would be credible, its membership was comprised of independent subject matter experts with backgrounds in physics, engineering electromagnetics, epidemiology, biostatistics, occupational health, toxicology, medicine, public health policy, business, and law. Members representing industry also served on the Commission.

I was asked to be on the New Hampshire Commission because of my extensive professional background in Biomedical and Radiofrequency Engineering. During my service on the Commission, I was also the Chair of the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. In my many years as a professional in the field of Biomedical and Radiofrequency Engineering, I have performed research for over 25 sponsors, including the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Science Foundation. Most of my research has involved the modeling and measurement of electromagnetic fields, which includes the siting of wireless telecommunications infrastructure and navigation antennas. I should note that when I joined the Commission, I did not believe that low-level wireless radiation was particularly harmful.

I will not go into detail about the activities of the New Hampshire Commission except to say that we completed a year-long, in-depth investigation into the impacts of cell towers and wireless radiation and we published our final report that is provided here. I will say that the work of the Commission and my work in sharing its findings since, is relevant to the legislation you are now considering. The bottom-line finding of the New Hampshire Commission is that all forms of wireless radiation (such as what is produced by cellphones, cell towers, Wi-Fi, etc.) are harmful to humans and wildlife. The science supporting this claim is now crystal clear. We have found that the only reason that some people challenge this claim is that it would lower the profits of the industries they represent if the harm were to be acknowledged. And in the five years I've been involved in this issue, the only people who have claimed that wireless radiation exposure is harmless have been those with an affiliation with industry. This is not new, we have seen similar denials of harm from other industries in the past, including tobacco, asbestos, glyphosate, and many others. At this juncture, I am hopeful that we can learn from our past mistakes and respond more quickly to the reality of wireless radiation harm, so that we can meaningfully protect the people we represent.

In the four and a half years that have passed since I served on the Commission, a lot has transpired with regards to the issue of wireless radiation. Peer-reviewed publications come out nearly daily that support the findings of the Commission. And there has been a sea change in public perception of radiation exposure. As spokesperson for the Commission, I have presented its findings to over 70 groups in 9 countries in venues that include the Royal Society of Medicine, Yale University Medical School, and the Congress of Medicine and Environmental Health in Barcelona, Spain; I am scheduled to give a speaking tour in China on this topic next month. I

am bringing this information to your attention to let you know that there has been a shift from skepticism about wireless radiation to a quest by medical professionals and citizens around the world to learn more about a toxin that is negatively affecting people.

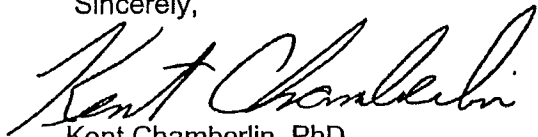
As you consider the formation of a commission to further study wireless radiation impacts, I encourage you to consider the opportunities that are likely afforded by it. For example, as more people become aware of radiation harm, they will be seeking ways to mitigate that harm, whether at home or on vacation. Keeping in mind that my background is in Radiofrequency Engineering, I can assure you that there are many ways to significantly lower exposures while continuing to provide robust internet and phone connectivity. In the roles I have played since serving on the New Hampshire Commission, I have encountered a large number of people seeking places of refuge from radiation exposure and it is likely that that number will increase significantly as more and more people become aware of those harms, and as ambient radiation levels increase in most parts of the country. And regardless of what your opinion about Robert Kennedy, Jr. may be, he is the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and he has taken a stance with regarding wireless radiation that will further raise awareness about it.

The opportunity I refer to above relates to Maine being in a position to become a leader in the issue of wireless radiation, and that can be achieved through the focused efforts of a commission such as the one being proposed. For example, the commission could explore ways to reduce radiation exposure in key locations such as hotels, guest houses, campgrounds, parks, schools, hospitals, etc. As noted above, there is a growing group of people who would go out of their way to stay at facilities where radiation exposures are reduced or where they have more control over the level of wireless radiation within their environment. Given the relatively low deployment of wireless infrastructure in Maine and given the evolving technology to provide connectivity without excessive radiation exposure, being able to advertise low exposure could be a key component in boosting Maine's economy. Just as Volvo was able to greatly increase its market share by competing on safety many years ago, Maine may be able to lead on wireless radiation safety today.

Before closing, the negative impact of wireless radiation on wildlife, which includes mammals, birds, insects and vegetation, should be addressed by the proposed commission. A major draw for visiting Maine is its wildlife, and anything that jeopardizes it will have an impact on the economy. There are ways to build out wireless infrastructure to minimize harm to wildlife, just as there are ways to minimize harm to people. My suggested friendly amendment to the proposed legislation is that it advocates for the formation of a commission that focuses on Maine-specific opportunities that might be realized through judicious planning for wired and safer wireless infrastructure.

Based on my comments above, I encourage you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Chamberlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "K" and "C".

Kent Chamberlin, PhD
Professor & Chair Emeritus
Fulbright Distinguished Chair
President, Environmental Health Trust