

**Public Comment by Gretchen Vos, 444 Lit Way, Ashland, Oregon, to be entered into the public record, City of Ashland, Public Forum, December 3, 2019 City Council Meeting.**

1. AT&T is in the initial application process of a cell tower (a monopole) to be located near SOU stadium in Ashland, Oregon. The AT&T consultant has already notified property owners within 300 feet of the proposed site, and had their public information meeting last Monday Nov. 25, 2019.

2. The proposed location is very close to 3-5 schools: Head Start pre-school; Walker Elementary School, Ashland Middle School, SOU Resident Dorms, SOU Cafeteria, SOU Rec. Bldg and SOU local TV station).

3. There is a very large citizen opposition to the location; over 50 citizens attended the AT&T meeting on a cold rainy night. Only 2 of the 50 people at the meeting identified themselves as living within 300 feet of the proposed location. They attended because they oppose the siting regardless of where they live.

4. The AT&T rep. stated, when asked directly, that they would not be willing to collaborate with the city/residents on the location of a new tower, i.e. a fight is a coming.

5. Since the 1996 Telecommunications Act, many studies have been published by peer-reviewed scientists that dispute the current FCC agencies' claims of no harm from RF energy. In fact, significant harm has occurred when telecommunication facilities are located near elementary schools, fire stations as well as universities. I am old enough to remember when tobacco companies own scientists disputed the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Similarly, and eventually independently-funded research is now showing the science of environmental and physiological effects from RF.

6. To be clear: the 1996 Act never stated we "cannot" voice our concerns about health effects, the act actually and simply states that wireless companies do not *have* to consider environmental impacts; but it does not preclude them from considering a community's health or environmental concerns, they *can* consider these impacts, they just are not *required* to."

7. A new 2019 federal ruling in a DC court challenges certain aspects of the 1996 act because it denies a NEPA review process. The ruling requires some kind of environmental review process to be included in cell tower location. As this was just published, we as a city will need to see how this lands to respond appropriately. This may allow the city the opportunity and time to legally rewrite some ordinances (i.e. school set backs).

8. Senate Bill 283 currently in the Oregon Legislature directs the Department of Education to prepare and make available statements that disclose the potential health risks of wireless network technology and requires public and private schools to distribute statements to employees, students and parents.

9. We all are in agreement in wanting to protect the children of Ashland and college students. The citizens of Ashland WANT to collaborate and work WITH the council to help you. Let us know what you need to better understand the legal, scientific, environmental, and legal issues; there is a very educated respectful concerned group of citizens willing to support you!

*Thank you for this chance to speak about an issue that affects so many citizens of Ashland.*