September 18, 2017

Dear Governor Brown:

Physicians for Safe Technology is joining the AARP, CWA, Sierra Club, EWG, League of Cities, the California Chapter of the American Planning Association, the California Municipal Utilities Association, the California State Association of Counties, 300 cities, 50 Counties and hundreds of citizens in California asking you to veto SB649 Wireless Telecommunications Facilities.

Physicians for Safe Technology is a group of physicians, researchers and educators concerned about the rapid expansion of wireless telecommunications infrastructure without adequate protection for public health.

We believe SB649 subsidizes the telecommunications industry at the expense of the health of Californians, especially children. It will eliminate local authority over wireless facility siting, and local environmental and economic decision-making that could support wired infrastructure, a clearly superior choice for healthy communities.

Physicians realize now that the incremental increases in daily radiofrequency (RF) exposure already exceed human health tolerance for many people. Cumulative effects of RF exposure from multiple sources are not addressed under any current health standards. We need to be reducing rather than increasing new sources of involuntary RF exposure in our communities.

Chronic disease costs in California from environmental toxic exposures already cost our State millions of dollars annually. SB649 will make this situation worse. We should be acting to reduce preventable toxic exposures, particularly where it is known that chemicals and wireless radiation exposures can act in a synergistic way to amplify health harm. There is widespread opposition from diverse interest groups that should be a signal this bill is deeply flawed and SB649 should be set aside.

Thank you for your leadership to protect the interests of the people of California.

Cindy Russell M.D., on behalf of Physicians for Safe Technology