

# CLOUT

Coalition for Local Oversight of Utility Technologies  
[www.cloutnow.org](http://www.cloutnow.org)

May 20, 2009

## Via Facsimile

Los Angeles Unified School District  
Board of Education  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Fax No.: (213) 241-8953

Re: Resolution on Wireless Telecommunication Installations

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for Local Oversight of Utility Technologies (CLOUT), a nationwide organization committed to amending the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to restore to state and local governments the authority to protect public health by considering the health and environmental impacts of low-intensity radiofrequency radiation when regulating cellular towers and other wireless facilities.

CLOUT strongly supports the resolution concerning Wireless Telecommunication Installations before the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education at your May 26, 2009 meeting and urges its adoption.

In 2000, the Board of Education took an important leadership role in protecting children from the potentially adverse health effects of wireless facilities by adopting a resolution that opposed the placement of cellular telecommunications towers on or immediately adjacent to school property until appropriate regulatory standards have been adopted. As a result of the Board's action in 2000, schools from around the United States have looked to the Los Angeles Unified School District as a model for policy on this issue and many school districts have followed suit.

Today, with commercial wireless carriers continuing their deployment of cellular towers and related facilities throughout the country, with new wireless technologies being introduced (e.g., WiMAX), and with billions of dollars earmarked for broadband spending in President Obama's stimulus bill, opening the door to further build-out of wireless infrastructure, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 continues to preempt local

governments from considering the health and environmental effects of low-intensity radiofrequency radiation when determining where wireless facilities may be permitted.

Wireless carriers continue to aggressively exploit loopholes in existing state and federal law to deploy wireless facilities in locations, such as public rights-of-way in residentially zoned neighborhoods, where they are not subject to the stricter local land use and zoning regulations that would otherwise prevail. The result is less public notification of, and involvement in, deliberations regarding wireless telecommunication installations, and a growing number of attempts to locate these facilities in sensitive areas, including areas near schools.

Hence it is vitally important that the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education continue to take a strong, proactive stand on this issue by ensuring that the health and safety of its students, staff, and teachers are protected.

At the close of the first decade of the 21st Century, the Board of Education has an opportunity to encourage "future proof" technology solutions to meet the needs of its students, teachers, and staff. These should include a commitment to fiber optic broadband, an alternative that overcomes many of the shortcomings of wireless technology by offering greater reliability, far greater data speeds, and enhanced security, durability, and energy efficiency, and carries none of the potential health hazards of wireless telecommunication installations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Doug Loranger

DAL

cc: Julie Korenstein