

To: The Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies:

Senate Members: Chair Eric P. Lesser, Vice Chair Brendan P. Crighton, Paul R. Feeney, Walter F. Timilty, Cynthia Stone Creem, Anne M. Gobi, Patrick M. O'Connor

House Members: Chair Ann-Margaret Ferrante, Vice Chair Kenneth I. Gordon, Brian M. Ashe, Carole A. Fiola, Michael S. Day, Carlos González, Brian W. Murray, Bud L. Williams, David Biele, Kathleen R. LaNatra, Donald H. Wong (Ranking Minority), Shawn Dooley, Michael J. Soter

From: Kirstin Beatty, Last Tree Laws Co-Chair and Director
Attached Co-Signatures

RE: **Critique of H 383, for a 5G Technology Task Force, and Recommendation to Dismiss or Revise**

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Signatures in support of this testimony [*Will send by email to legislators*]
2. *Updated* chart summary of relevant bills before the legislature

As stated in previous letters of testimony, we face serious health and environmental risks from wireless exposures.^{i ii} We must block 5G, which adds fuel to the fire.

This bill does not stop or nor restrain 5G. As written, this bill allows the industry to study and prepare laws to help business and 5G.

H. 383 is a bill to insure "fairness" relating to "economics and regulations." Regulations can be used just as well to promote as to restrict 5G. A clearly defined rejection of 5G is not listed in the bill. Most likely, the definition of fairness in this bill ironically and cruelly means providing access to 5G.

Even if the intention of the commission members is to protect the public, the commission cannot ignore the law's proclamation of providing "fairness" and regulation built on the assumption of accepting 5G's existence.

The composition of the commission indicates that its work will largely be directed by and for business interests, as it is mainly representatives of the executive branch and business community:

- **Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council** – A tech association, with the Board of Trustees currently including Big Tech and its investors (**Amazon, General Catalyst, Microsoft, Verizon**, etc.)
- 3 Nominees of the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta, who is a former banking professional and now head of a department devoted to workforce training and labor laws, who shall choose:
 - 2 of 5 Nominees chosen by **Massachusetts Business Roundtable** – Members are executives, including of **Verizon, Dell, AT&T, etc.**
 - 1 Nominee from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
- Mass Tech Collaborative – A public agency with a mission to support tech innovation and has done so via *numerous collaborations* with technology businesses
- Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies (House and Senate)
- House and Senate representatives appointed by the Senate and House Minority Leaders.

Among other tasks, the commission is directed to study laws and regulations to promote innovation, regulation, and propose laws. **Since the composition of the commission may include executive directors in telecommunication and IT companies, this task could present serious conflicts of interest unless the mission, representation, and balance of power on the commission is altered.** This commission could easily devise legislation, regulations, and administrative directives shielding businesses from liability or any responsibility while promoting 5G.

The inclusion of innovation as a no-holds-barred goal is also a bit scary, considering the lack of safety or human rights considerations in the explosion of our technologies. Why, in a world where Facebook is developing technologies to read our minds, would a democracy promote a commission of business interests to promote more of the same innovations?ⁱⁱⁱ

As stated in previous letters of testimony, the focus must be on protecting protecting the public and the environment, rather than protecting telecommunications or IT companies.

If the intent is to provide for a round-table to discuss how to roll back consumer and work force wireless exposures, then the proposal needs to be significantly altered to alter the stated mission and to be inclusive and weighted in favor of missing stakeholders and expertise. Missing from this list of commission members is real representation of labor, the disabled, electromagnetic reduction specialists, and advocates

for social justice, some of whom would likely need financial support to be present. Conflicts of interest must also be prevented.

While seeking to create a stable economy or reverse harmful wireless exposures is worthwhile, this is different than the model here which may simply protect telecommunication and IT companies.

There are **other bills regarding wireless commissions** [see attached summary sheet]. With so many different commission bills, it would be worthwhile to consider whether these bills can be combined to effectively address all concerns, including some of the useful components of this bill, such as a requirement for the legislature to receive reports from telecommunication companies.

Please eliminate H. 383 from consideration, or revise as noted if choosing to move it forward.

- i Beatty, K (2019 July 25) An open letter on our risks from wireless and for a roll back of exposures. Last Tree Laws. Available online at <https://www.lasttreelaws.com/our-risks.html>
- ii Beatty, K (2019 May) Environmental and agricultural reasons to reduce wireless and electromagnetic exposures. Last Tree Laws. Available online at <https://www.lasttreelaws.com/tree-letter.html>
- iii Solon, O (2017 Apr 19) Facebook has 60 people working on how to read your mind: social network says its assembled a team to build technology that allows to you 'think' commands at your smartphone. But what if you think that's scary?. The Guardian. Available online 2019 Oct 19 at <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/apr/19/facebook-mind-reading-technology-f8>