

Like the Lorax, we need Independent Tech Experts to Speak for Us, Massachusetts

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Why Initiative Petition 26–01 is necessary for safer technology

We need, fundamentally, independent experts in technology, law, and policy to redesign our relationship to technology for our own security, safety, and sustainability.

Turning off the lights to save energy seems to be a sad joke today, given the colossal footprint of technology's energy demands. Yet, we lack a credentialed Lorax to speak for the trees — or for the people.

Without independent, specialized expertise, who can untangle the scientific, technical, and legal machinery?

The Initial Solution: Petition 26–01 (The ORTO Initiative)

Our Massachusetts ballot committee *Safer Tech at LastTreeLaws.com* has launched a statewide initiative petition to establish the **Office of Research and Technology Optimization (ORTO)**.

This independent state office will not establish bans or function as a regulatory agency. Instead, it is designed to conduct independent research and recommend how to ensure the use or non-use of non-ionizing radiation technology is “**As Safe As Reasonable & Achievable**” (ASARAA), evaluating technology through the prism of **health, safety, environment, property rights, and civil liberties**. In other words, ORTO will be the ‘Lorax.’

The Initial Focus: Non-Ionizing Radiation Technologies

To comply with our state's single-subject requirement for ballot initiatives, this petition focuses strictly on **non-ionizing radiation (NIR) technologies** —an area in sore need of attention.

NIR is an electric and magnetic field surrounding electricity and transmitted by antennas. NIR is invisible when emitted by electrical lines or antennas, but NIR is visible when transmitted as light. It enters our daily lives through cellular antennas, power lines, and computer screens. However, the scope of NIR extends far into advanced technology networks, including:

- **Artificial Intelligence & Robotics:** Autonomous, physically active machines and drone arrays that rely on continuous wireless transmission networks for operational control.
- **Surveillance Systems:** Networked cameras and sensor arrays that broadcast heavy data loads wirelessly across communities.

- **Consumer & Tactical Tech:** Interconnected personal health devices as well as localized micro-current weapons and directed energy technologies.

We need to set aside the default mode of thoughtless, automatic technological adoption.

Instead, we need independent experts to evaluate the long-term risks of these largely invisible systems and define a more prudent path forward.

If acceptable under the Massachusetts single subject rule for petition initiatives, we will include ionizing radiation, adding technologies such as medical imaging and nuclear reactors—as discussed in detail at the [LastTreeLaws' Substack](#).

This Petition Must be “Planted” Now

Our technologies have evolved beyond mere ‘tools.’ They now actively manipulate our health, environment, livelihoods, democracy, and social interactions — often at the service of hidden corporate and institutional interests. In our workplaces and daily lives, we must negotiate with technology, rather than having a choice.

The vast concentration of power afforded by surveillance technology and AI may be the reason why both governments and corporations unitedly deny the biological effects of non-ionizing radiation. This denial is deeply concerning; robust independent research indicates substantial harm to human beings and our ecosystems — ranging from neurological disruptions to the decline of vital pollinators like bees and butterflies. While safer technology is possible, our government has failed to fund the relevant technical, scientific, or legal research.

Corporate Overreach: Workplace “Bossware”

At the World Economic Forum’s 2023 meeting in Davos, Duke University professor and legal ethicist Nita Farahany delivered a landmark presentation on “Brain Transparency.” She exposed how commercial wearable neurotechnology is moving into the workplace to analyze employee emotional states and fatigue from tiny electrical impulses generated by the brain. Yet, even without advanced brain-tracking ‘bossware,’ corporations are actively deploying wireless technologies to continuously monitor employee conversations, physical locations, and even posture.

The Democratization of Mass Surveillance: Flock Cameras

Flock Safety automated license plate readers have taken center stage. Sold as a cheap, user-friendly subscription model, Flock has effectively democratized mass surveillance, allowing small towns and private Homeowners Associations (HOAs) to pool data into massive, unaccountable national networks that invite personal and systemic misuse.

The Invisible Threat: Data Centralization & Unregistered Towers

Yet, even without Flock's ease of use, our entire wireless network is structurally capable of the same abuse by governments, corporations, and malicious actors on an exponentially inflated scale. Jeffrey Epstein notoriously deployed advanced, custom surveillance technology to target, record, and compromise the wealthy and powerful specifically to manipulate legal and political systems. While he acted as a pawn, the structural vulnerabilities that allowed his operation remain completely unaddressed.

The Commonwealth is filled with a flood of small cells, smart grids, and unregistered or "ghost" cell towers that operate outside of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) public registry. The technical design and legal architecture that enables this invisible dragnet must be audited and re-engineered to protect our democracy. We need the best legal, scientific, and technical minds of the Commonwealth to pioneer public interest research and recommend a safer framework for our future.

An Independent Office would be a Powerful Lorax

While Dr. Seuss recognized that capital interests easily dismissed the Lorax, and while the same is frequently true for ordinary people raising concerns about privacy, health, or jobs — a credentialed "Lorax" Office protected by state statute would possess real institutional power.

1. Shifting the Legal Balance of Power

Our judicial system still decides landmark cases based on verified facts and expert testimony. Currently, tech conglomerates possess nearly unlimited capital to fund highly specialized legal and technical defenses for flawed or invasive products. An independent, state-sanctioned office of experts would introduce a novel, heavyweight voice into the courtroom. Because these credentialed experts would be legally authorized to provide public-interest testimony, their findings could fundamentally tilt the legal playing field to favor the rights and safety of residents. There is currently no other dedicated state or federal office of non-ionizing radiation research in the United States. Massachusetts can pioneer this blueprint.

2. Removing the Burden of Complexity from Individuals

The sheer complexity of modern scientific, technical, and legal frameworks should not be a barrier to public safety. Most people do not have the time, desire, or technical background to audit algorithmic code or analyze electromagnetic frequencies. By establishing a dedicated office to research and explain these systems, we remove an immense psychological and logistical burden from the public. Simply by assuming this advisory role, the office can help

heal the collective anxiety that naturally arises when pervasive technology is allowed to deploy completely unexamined.

3. Restoring Choice Through Public Education

Per the Massachusetts Constitution, the initiative process allows voters to directly shape the laws of the Commonwealth. By legally mandating this office to distribute educational materials and objective advice to the public and government leaders, the initiative establishes a framework for genuine choice. Armed with objective data, individual residents, the state, and municipal governments can consciously choose to procure safer, optimized technologies — or choose to sidestep specific digital infrastructures entirely.

Help Plant the Seed for Safer Tech

The original Lorax famously left behind a small pile of rocks with a single word carved into them: *Unless*.

Unless people like us care a whole awful lot, the trajectory of unexamined corporate technology will not get better. It will only expand deeper into our workplaces, our streets, and our bodies.

Our Massachusetts ballot committee, **Safer Tech**, is actively gathering the certified signatures required to place **Petition 26–01** on the statewide ballot.

This fall is our test run. We are treating this phase as a vital period to ground test our operation, gathering vital community input to improve our petition and build a powerful signature gathering infrastructure. This year builds the foundation and community while working out our necessary campaign infrastructure; next year is the full drive for the ballot. We need residents, neighbors, small businesses, and advocates across the Commonwealth to act now to support our voter signature infrastructure.

- **Read the Details:** Review our media kit, legal text, and campaign progress updates at [LastTreeLaws.com](https://lasttreelaws.com)
- **Get Involved:** Join our team, download handouts, or learn how to circulate petitions in your town at [Last Tree Laws — Help Win!](https://lasttreelaws.com/help-win)
- **Check Your Voter Registration:** Signatures must be from registered voters. Check your voter registration at the [Massachusetts' Secretary of the Commonwealth](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/) website: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>
- **Donate:** A one-time or monthly **contribution** makes a massive difference. We need your help to cover legal, printing, and campaign expenses.

Let's build an institutional Lorax for Massachusetts and secure a safer, truly sustainable relationship with technology.