

Darin Austin
300 Cole Cemetery Rd
Benton KY 42025



June 26, 2025

Kentucky Public Service Commission

Attn: Executive Director

211 Sower Boulevard

P.O. Box 615

Frankfort, KY 40602

Dear Executive Director,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed construction of a Verizon cell tower located across the road from my residence, less than 500 feet away. As a homeowner and concerned citizen, I believe this project poses significant risks to both my property value and the health of my family and community. I urge the Commission to reconsider approving this project due to the following reasons.

Impact on Property Value

The proximity of a cell tower—less than 500 feet from my home—will likely result in a substantial decrease in my property's market value. Numerous studies and real estate analyses indicate that properties near cell towers experience value depreciation ranging from 10% to 20%, and in some cases higher, due to aesthetic concerns and perceived health risks. My home is a significant investment, and a cell tower so close would deter potential buyers, making it difficult to sell at a fair market price. The visual intrusion of a towering structure would also disrupt the rural character of our neighborhood, further diminishing the appeal of my property.

Health Concerns Related to 5G Radiation

The proposed cell tower, likely equipped to emit 5G radiation, raises serious health concerns for my family and neighbors. While research on 5G is ongoing, numerous studies and expert opinions have highlighted potential risks associated with prolonged exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic fields (EMF) emitted by cell towers. Reported health complications include:

- **Increased cancer risk:** Some studies, including those reviewed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), classify RF-EMF as a possible carcinogen (Group 2B), with concerns about long-term exposure.
- **Neurological effects:** Research suggests potential links between RF exposure and symptoms such as headaches, sleep disturbances, cognitive impairment, and memory issues.
- **Reproductive health issues:** Preliminary studies indicate possible impacts on fertility and fetal development from chronic EMF exposure.
- **Cardiovascular problems:** Some reports associate RF radiation with increased heart rate variability and stress-related cardiovascular effects.

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- **Immune system disruption:** Prolonged exposure may weaken immune responses, increasing susceptibility to illnesses.
- **Electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS):** A subset of individuals report symptoms like fatigue, dizziness, and skin irritation when exposed to EMF, though this condition remains under study.

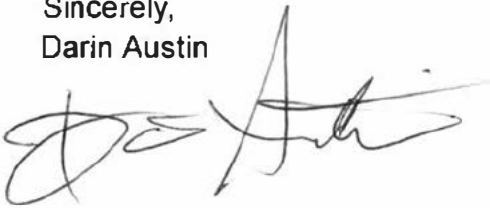
Given the tower's proximity—less than 500 feet from my home—my family would face constant exposure to these potential risks, with no ability to mitigate them. The lack of conclusive long-term studies on 5G-specific radiation only heightens my concern, as the precautionary principle should guide decisions affecting public health.

Conclusion

The construction of a Verizon cell tower so close to my residence threatens both my financial security and my family's well-being. The likely depreciation of my property value, combined with the documented and potential health risks of 5G radiation, makes this project unacceptable. I respectfully request that the Commission deny the proposal or, at minimum, require Verizon to identify an alternative site farther from residential areas. I am happy to provide additional information or participate in public hearings to discuss these concerns further.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for considering the interests of affected residents.

Sincerely,
Darin Austin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darin Austin', written over the typed name.