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Town Supervisor

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Dear Neighbors,

I understand that there is a shared concern in our communities regarding the installation of cell service transmitters. I am equally frustrated with this situation and I have called upon our representatives in federal government to demand that they initiate and fund an independent study on the potential health effects of cellphone transmitters and similar radio or microwave transmission technology equipment to the public.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits local municipalities from allowing health or environmental concerns to be the basis for denying the placement of telecom equipment. This outdated statute requires an updated study which takes into account more modern technology not in place at the time of the 1996 action. It is clearly our responsibility to provide our residents with factual data related to the health implications of living or traveling close to this technology. Our residents deserve answers and their concern is evident and justifiable.

We need to complete the research to present any potential risks to children, pregnant women, and our communities at large. We must provide state of the art and cutting edge information on this subject and the process must begin immediately. The Town of Oyster Bay will not allow an outdated law and outdated research to have a potentially negative effect on the health of our residents.

While the Town does grant access permission to our right-of-ways, it is not in the interest of our citizens to remove the rights of local governments a say in the placement of these devices. I have further asked our federal representatives to amend the law and restore the jurisdictional rights of whether or not to locate cell transmitters in residential areas.

Together with some of my colleagues on the Town Board, I have reached out to our federal representatives, including congressional and senate representatives, calling upon them to initiate an independent study and to amend the law, giving power back to our residents.

Very truly yours,

Joseph S. Saladino  
Town Supervisor