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From: HankTone@aol.com
To: district3@longbeach.gov
Date: 05/16/2011 09:53 PM
Subject: Re: City of Long Beach Wireless Ordinance

The Honorable Gary DeLong Councilmember District 3
Long Beach, California

Dear Councilmember DeLong:

We are writing you as the State President of the Congress of California Seniors, we proudly represent an organization which focuses on legislative and consumer issues that impact older adults. We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for seniors, which includes providing them with educational opportunities to stay connected with the fast-moving world they live in.

One of the fastest-growing industries of the current generation we live in is the telecommunications wireless industry. And, senior citizens today not only need to become more and more educated about this industry and now to use the technology, but their lives and livelihoods also depend on wireless communication.

We need to have the most robust wireless infrastructure in place to ensure that seniors get the coverage when they need it most, including in emergency situations, which is when residents rely most heavily on wireless. We need to allow the wireless companies to build the infrastructure necessary to provide our residents with good coverage to communicate; this is especially critical to the most vulnerable populations including senior citizens.

We can educate seniors all we want on how to use their wireless phone - but it really doesn't mean much if they don't have the coverage when they need it the most. The bottom line is that the City of Long Beach and every other City in California needs to think about the real ways in which optimal wireless coverage, which is supported by infrastructure, can help save a life and improve the quality of life for seniors and all other residents.

We hope the City of Long Beach and its decision-makers do the right thing in acting upon a revised draft wireless ordinance this week and support the needs of all residents including seniors and not enact regulations that prevent residents from having access to the latest essential wireless communications technology.

Respectfully,

Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo
State President/CEO
Congress of California Seniors

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