

Comment from Margaret Phillips

My name is Margaret Phillips. I am a Masters level Psychotherapist and I hold an Master's of Public Health degree from Boston University. I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed V2V mandate, which I urge you to abandon.

Over the past three years, I have become sensitized to the electromagnetic fields (EMFs) emitted by wireless devices. My first symptom, which came on after I'd been happily using a cell phone for several years, was a nagging pain behind my right ear which lasted for several months, and which conventional medicine was not able to successfully diagnose or resolve. One day, when I was driving in a remote area, the pain got so bad that I wondered whether it might be connected to the Bluetooth headset I was using- which I habitually hooked over my right ear. I tried switching the headset to the left ear, and felt the same pain on that side within a few minutes. After repeating this experiment a few times over a few days, I became convinced, and stopped using the Bluetooth headset altogether, switched to an airtube headset, and drastically cut down my cellphone use. Soon after this, the pain on the right side (which had become chronic) resolved all on its own. Not long after that, I began experiencing pain and buzzing in my hands when I was holding a cellphone, and when using my laptop keyboard. Now I use my cell only for emergencies (on speaker phone).

I also get other symptoms from wireless signal, including insomnia and cognitive difficulties, including confusion, trouble remembering things, and trouble thinking clearly. These symptoms improved dramatically at home, after I switched to using only a wired internet connection at home, but they still affect me when I am out in public environments with the now-normal ambient levels of wireless signal, and I cannot sleep in a house or hotel with the wireless internet enabled. The last time I had to spend some cumulative time (over an hour, with breaks) in an Apple store getting my computer fixed, I began having trouble thinking clearly after about 20 minutes; after I got home, I was so dysfunctional with fatigue and brain-fog that I couldn't leave the house for two days afterwards.

This condition may sound strange or even psychosomatic to you- it certainly does to most people, and it did to me at first as well. In fact, however, it is affecting more and more people worldwide every year. Its so prevalent that the United States Access Board has recognized it as a legitimate disability. Scientific research is underway to explain the mechanisms at play; and research has already indicated negative effects on animal, insect and plant life. Please also keep in mind that the long-term safety of wireless radiation exposure at the levels and in the cumulative amounts we are currently exposed to has never been positively established, whereas there are many (non-industry sponsored) studies indicating negative effects. (The early studies indicating no harmful effect (that the FCC safety guidelines are based on) are out-dated, and do not take into account recent research that shows harmful biological effects from non-ionizing radiation.)

I bring all this up because I want to impress upon you the tremendous impact that the V2V Mandate would have on myself and the thousands of people like me who are sensitive to wireless signal. I/we literally would not be able to buy, drive, or ride in a car with this technology. I/we would also be seriously affected by the supporting infrastructure along roadways, and would be faced daily with a choice between not leaving the house versus increased exposure leading to worsening symptoms, or taking back roads to minimize exposure. I would suggest that a Mandate that affects the health and productive lives of a large segment of the population (current estimates are 3-5% of the population of the developed world) in this way is not indicated. In addition to your agency's public duty to consider the health impact of this Mandate on a significant portion of the population, I think it would also be prudent to consider the legal challenges this Mandate would likely engender, relative to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I believe it is not yet time to force wireless radiation exposure upon the population at large. There are

still too many unmapped safety issues and unknowns; first we need more comprehensive health effects research and the development of safer forms of wireless communication, all of which takes time and dedication.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Margaret