

Attention Bingham County Planning & Zoning Commission,

My name is David Coffield. I, along with my wife Lisa, would like to address to you our concerns, and offer information regarding the plan to construct a cell phone tower at: East of 647 E. 800 N. Firth Idaho. Parcel No. RP0532904, Township 1S, Range 37E, Section 30, approx. 3.98 acres.

This location is literally across the street from our residence, as well as several of our neighbors. We live in the small city of Basalt which is made up of several hundred people. Our surrounding community outside our city limits has several hundred additional citizens. If permitted to go forward, this 150-foot tower would present an eyesore in our community and would likely lower the value of our homes. No one wants to have a cell tower in their backyard. If you were in our situation, I am sure you would agree.

Besides the visually ugly aspect of the tower, one of our main concerns is about the health risks. I have looked up several sources on the radiation affects these cell towers emit that could possibly cause cancer, headaches, sleep issues, genetic damage, changes to the reproductive system, memory deficits, and impacts to the nervous system. You can find arguments on both sides of the issue, but why should we be forced to take the risk? If you have the time here is the web site that has some interesting information for our argument: https://ehtrust.org/health-effects-of-cell-towers-near-homes-and-schools/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR293arRQ2xTehXSaiidhb7in7hK6d05TSrq_CNRN1ApQIcLCUokWTf1g7A_aem_AbLGhtbyXD4b0DUGIHfuRogfVB5W1fAs_z_2FDpTrkcsGrQkdh4mLlvqOwidhLrTz_ZY3sJUe2QELS7a2uK8TYte.

There are also three public schools within several miles of the proposed location, A.W. Johnson Elementary, Firth Junior High School and Firth High School. Are you willing to take the radiation risks for the students and teachers? On the website listed above, there are several communities that have outlawed the construction of cell towers in their communities that are near schools.

Why are they considering this location? Is it so the owner of the land can make a windfall profit at our expense? Couldn't Skyway Tower find a less populated area to construct the tower and still give better cell phone coverage? I google searched "cell towers" and found out that in rural areas, like ours, cell phone towers have an effective range of up to twenty miles.

One suggestion is to put it in the hills just 6 miles east of us at Clearway Cedar Creek Windfarm. It has just been allowed to have windmills constructed there. The tower would blend right in with them and not be around a populated area.

My wife and I have cell phones that use T-Mobile towers. We don't have the "best" coverage, but it is adequate.

So again, we would like you to put yourself in our place, before granting the application to build cell towers so close to our community.

Thank you.