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Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Testimony regarding LD 1013 An Act to Create the Children's Wireless Protection Act

My name is Elery Keene. I live in Winslow. I have a Bachelors and Masters degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Maine and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin. I have worked as a planner in both the private sector and the public sector. I was Executive Director of The Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for 31 years before I retired in June, 2001.

I support LD 1013 because I believe that it is extremely important that we protect children and also adults from unnecessary health problems as a result of cell phone radiation. I believe that this is happening and it should not be. I do not have a cell phone.

Many scientists are well aware that exposure of electronic fields from cell phones and other wireless devices that are sold in the free market. I believe that federal regulators should have done diligent testing of such devices and put regulations in place with standards sufficient to protect human beings, especially children, from adverse effects.

But most of us now know that we cannot depend upon the integrity of our federal regulatory system to do this – not only for cell phones but other wireless devices such as smart meters. Also for high tension power lines, medicines, pest control products, food, air pollution, genetically modified seeds, liners for tin cans and bottle covers that are made from BPA, and other things I may not be able to think of right now or don't even know about. Wrongly, many of the people the federal government who are in charge of regulating our health and safety are using the revolving door system in which they work as an executive for a business that makes these things for a while, work as an executive in a regulatory agency that regulates these kind of things for a while, and then go back to work in a highly paid position for one of the manufacturers of products they had been responsible for regulating. The system is corrupt.

So now, we the people, come to our state government and ask you to help us avoid the health and safety problems that our federal regulators fail to protect us from.

It is not much to ask that the manufacturers put warning labels on these items so that those people who pay attention can use their own judgment whether to take the risk of using these products or not, and if they do choose to use them, how to do so with minimum risk of adverse affects.

With respect to cell phones, the American Academy of Pediatrics supports doing this to protect children's health.

So please support this legislation. It is something that we can do right now.

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