



# MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember, Eleventh District

June 22, 2017

California State Assembly  
Committee on Local Government  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, California 95814

*Via email*

**Re: Senate Bill 649 (Hueso) - Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (June 28, 2017 Hearing)**

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Senate Bill 649 (Hueso), which is scheduled for a hearing before the Assembly Local Government Committee on June 28, 2017. I share the very real and very strong concerns of constituents throughout my district that SB 649 would have significant negative impacts on our neighborhoods. My district includes the Westside neighborhoods of Los Angeles, from the Santa Monica Mountains on the north to Los Angeles International Airport on the south. SB 649 would deprive the City of its local authority to ensure that small cell facilities are compatible and consistent with the communities where they are proposed to be installed.

SB 649, as adopted by the Senate, unconstitutionally strips local authority over public property and excludes the public from the process. The Assembly's amendments to date only compound those issues. By making small cells "by right" and by directing where and under what terms local governments must allow them to be installed, SB 649 eliminates the ability of cities and counties to take aesthetic, environmental, and neighborhood concerns into consideration. Not only does SB 649 require that a city or county make its vertical infrastructure, like street lights, traffic lights, and other locally-owned or controlled poles, available for small cells, the bill also prescribes the terms under which a city or county can rent its public property for this use. SB 649 would impede the obligation of local governments to rent public property in the public's interest and receive fair-market value.

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The bill describes these wireless telecommunications facilities as “small,” stating that their impacts on communities would be “minor.” However, these small cells can be up to 35 cubic feet in volume and, because of their shorter range, they need to be deployed at greater densities than traditional cell towers. The City must retain the ability to make sure that small cells are sited in a way that minimizes disruption and aesthetic impacts in neighborhoods, ensures the proper use of public property, and does not unfairly advantage wireless companies over other type of companies or technology that may provide similar services.

I, therefore, ask your Committee to oppose SB 649 as it is currently drafted, and to ensure that if a bill does move forward, it retains all necessary local authority so that our neighborhoods and our constituents are protected.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Bonin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**MIKE BONIN**

*Councilmember, 11<sup>th</sup> District*

cc: Assemblymember Richard Bloom  
Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas