



CITY OF
Palos Verdes Estates

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 649 (Hueso) Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

Dear Governor:

I write on behalf of the residents of Palos Verdes Estates to offer you our sincere thanks for your veto of SB 649. Your simple veto message perfectly captured the sense of our residents. We agree wholeheartedly that ... “the interest which localities have in managing rights of way requires a more balanced solution than the one achieved in this bill.”

Our residents do want improved cell service and state-of-the-art data service. We are aware of the “real value in extending this innovative technology rapidly and efficiently.” Our City Staff and Planning Commission have worked on dozens of proposed cell tower sites and we are approving as many sites as we can, as long as the proposed sites are appropriately located in the “least obtrusive locations” and are consistent with our design standards. Local control works well in PVE, allowing us to strike a reasonable balance between the aesthetics our residents want and the legitimate development requirements of the telecommunication carriers.

We have been resisting efforts by the wireless carriers to place these towers in the parkways that are in front of our single family homes. Our residents have a legitimate right to resist these intrusive, unattractive structures when they are proposed in inappropriate places like a front yard or in front of an iconic church. Allowing the carriers to place the towers wherever may be cost effective, without regard to the other impacts, is wrong. Usurping the City’s power to protect its residents is worse. You are right, these issues require a more balanced solution than the one offered by SB 649.

Thanks for your support. We look forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely,

James D. Vandever
Mayor

c: Palos Verdes Estates City Council
Jeffrey Kiernan, League of California Cities (via e-mail)