

Bekki Watts

Public Hearing Speech: March 13. Opposing cell tower at 262 Skyview Dr.

Good morning.

Mr. Hearing Examiner,

277 Skyview Dr.

My home will be 425 feet from the proposed cell tower.

My name is Bekki Watts, and I'm a resident of Mossyrock and a founding member of Lewis County for Safe Technology.

I want to speak today about something very simple: the lack of need for this tower.

I'm a Verizon customer. In fact, I rely on Verizon service every single day. I'm a homeschooling mom, and I also run three online businesses that I manage primarily from my phone. My work, my family's education, and our day-to-day life depend on reliable connectivity.

Despite that, I have never had an issue with my service in this area.

Calls go through. Data works. I can run all three businesses just fine from my phone. If this area truly had a major coverage problem, I would know. But in our daily lives, that simply hasn't been the case.

That raises an important question: if the service is already working, why does this tower need to be placed right here?

The applicant should have been required to show why right here, why existing facilities, collocation, different sites, or other less harmful options would not work before asking to place a new tower this close to established homes. That showing is especially important in a rural residential area like this one, where the impacts on homes, views, and neighborhood character are so significant. In my opinion, the applicant has not made that showing, and without it, this proposal feels premature and unjustified.

My family chose to live here because of the quiet, rural setting. We homeschool our children, and much of our day is spent at home and around our property. The views outside our living room windows and our front door are part of that experience. We look out at trees, open space, and the natural beauty that makes this area special.

If this tower is built where it's proposed, those views will be permanently changed.

Instead of seeing the landscape we chose to live in and worked hard to save up for, we'll be looking at a large industrial structure towering over the neighborhood. For families who spend so much of their time at home—especially homeschooling families—that impact is not small.

Once something like that is built, there's no undoing it.

This community deserves thoughtful planning that respects the people who already live here.

If there were a clear need for this tower, that would be one conversation. But when residents who rely on the service every day aren't experiencing problems, it's hard to understand why such a large structure needs to be placed so close to our homes.

I respectfully ask that you carefully consider whether this location—and this tower—is truly necessary.

Thank you.

\*add in Skyview Dr. (view of the "SKY" ...hence the name of our street) if it naturally comes up.