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Subject: Letter to the Editor

Stunned is a gross understatement regarding my reading of the recently approved County Council Resolution 155. As reported on the Star's front page of 14 August, our elected officials decided to keep Talbot County in the "Dark Ages" of information technology for a minimum of ten months and in fact, more like another year to year and a half. What happened to our stated commitments made by each of us during our 2006 campaigns for County Council, committing to ensure our County would move forward exploiting technology and creating a true, 21st Century information infrastructure in our County? Obviously, for those elected, it was a meaningless commitment.

There are FCC shelves full of studies of the type our not-so-illustrious Council has mandated in Resolution 155. There is no need to spend one penny of taxpayer money on yet another study. Our current zoning regulations in Chapter 190 covers cellular telephone towers very adequately, i.e. towers will accommodate up to five service providers. This simple but powerful regulatory mandate is a forcing function on information technology providers (far more is involved than just cell phones!) to insure they place towers where good engineering practices and best business opportunities exist, not helter skelter all over our county as some have implied.

So, for at least another year to 18 months we can anticipate Talbot County falling further behind our much needed movement into the 21st Century. Its a shame and a serious miscalculation by those elected, having not a modicum of RF experience, to make such a decision for thousands of residents needing access to cellular services in areas around our county where there is none. But cellular services is not the only "missing link" in our Dark Age, wireless-void county.

This decision by our "technology dumb" Council can be likened to the Federal Government's decision not to drill in the Anwar preserve. Had we drilled (and we knew how to use technology to protect the Anwar's fragile environment) 10 years ago the oil would already be flowing, such is the situation now with this truly dumb decision by folks who know little to nothing about wireless technologies. There is no reasonable excuse for delaying Talbot County's steadfast march into the 21st Century's world of Information Technology and spending taxpayer money to come to some sort of conclusion is a complete and pathetic waste.

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