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# SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

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## **Rep. Allen critical of cell tower bill; No setback requirement on “small wireless” towers up to 50 feet**

The Wisconsin State Assembly is poised to take up Assembly Bill 348, regulating the location of mobile cell tower sites. The bill creates a loophole for small cell towers to be erected without setbacks.

“Telecommunications companies are responding to market demand and it is understandable that they want to provide better cell service,” said Rep. Allen. “At the same time, single-family home owners should not be fearful that their neighbor will put up a backyard cell tower and damage property values.”

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 348 was adopted in committee this week, replacing the original bill. In the current version of the bill, setback requirements do not apply to new or existing utility poles or structures for small wireless facilities, so long as they comply with certain height requirements.

“A plain reading of this bill permits cell towers, called ‘small wireless facilities’ up to 50 feet in height, on residential properties, without any setbacks,” said Rep. Allen. “This fails to accomplish my goal in authoring AB 130 and what seems to be the intent behind AB 161.”

AB 348 may head to the Assembly floor soon.

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*The 97<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes portions of the City of Waukesha  
and the Towns of Waukesha, Genesee, and Mukwonago.*