

ELIOT L. ENGEL
17TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

EUROPE

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

January 16, 2003

Joseph Klein, Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street, Room 320, B4
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Chancellor Klein:


I understand that you are considering renting spaces for cell phone towers on schools as a fund raising measure. I applaud your aspiration but question the judgment of using school building for cell phone towers whose safety is subject to much debate.

For example, in 2000 the Los Angeles Unified School District passed a resolution opposing cell phone towers being placed on schools and San Francisco flatly does not allow it.

I know that schools need money and this is certainly one way of raising it but I ask you to defer placing these towers on school buildings until the safety of the students can be assured. I believe that this is one case where we should be better safe than sorry.

I wish you good luck in your task of reforming the school system. It is an arduous job but the rewards for our children and our society is great.

Sincerely,


Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

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