

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



55 Elm Street
P.O. Box 120
Hartford, CT 06141-0120

Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2010*

I appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 206, An Act Concerning Local Land Use Agencies and the Siting of Telecommunication Towers.

This legislation authorizes the local planning and zoning agency to regulate or restrict the location of a cellular tower within its borders. The agency must make any such order not more than 60 days after the application for the siting of such tower has been filed with the Connecticut Siting Council.

My office receives numerous complaints from residents affected by the proposed placement of a cell tower in their town. Cell towers -- while serving a very useful purpose for our communication network -- are huge structures that pose potential dangers. The location of these towers must be carefully chosen.

When proper preparation and discussion with local officials occurs, the siting of these towers can be completed expeditiously and without controversy. However, too often, the tower owner has failed to communicate with local officials, resulting in the proposed location being completely unacceptable to the town residents. These objectionable sites may be inappropriate for a number of reasons, from aesthetics and incompatibility with permitted zoning uses in the area.

Senate Bill 206 provides an official role for local citizens in the siting of cell towers in their town and ensures that the location and type of tower are consistent with local land use.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of Senate bill 206.