

# Friends of the Pattagansett Trust

42 Brainard Road  
Niantic, CT 06357

Environment Committee Public Hearing  
Monday March 1, 2010

Testimony of Hilary S. Adams of Niantic, CT in support of SB 206 AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL LAND USE AGENCIES AND THE SITING OF TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS.

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

For the record my name is Hilary S. Adams of Niantic, CT. I am a co-founder of the Friends of the Pattagansett Trust. I am submitting this written testimony in support of SB 206 AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL LAND USE AGENCIES AND THE SITING OF TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS.

The Friends of the Pattagansett Trust, a citizen watch group, was created specifically in response to a proposed telecommunications tower to be built at 49 Brainard Rd, Niantic, CT (Connecticut Siting Council Docket No. 396). This particular facility, if built, will be situated on private property located in between two parcels of pristine protected land: Raven's Wood Nature Preserve, owned by The East Lyme Land Trust; and the Pattagansett River and Marsh, protected by The Nature Conservancy. The Board of Selectmen of East Lyme has voted unanimously against locating a tower on this particular site as it does not comply with our town's *Plan of Conservation and Development*. If our town officials had local control over the siting of telecommunications towers, the process involving docket no. 396, could have been halted. Town officials also could have worked with the cellular companies to examine coverage gaps and to find a suitable alternate location for a tower if needed. Instead, we are currently operating under a system that allows limited opportunity for town planning and zoning commissions to exercise any sort of influence over dockets within their jurisdiction. The current process is inherently unfair. Telecommunications towers are large and imposing. They create significant visual impact. Local town officials and their residents need to be able to engage in this process and have the power to decide. Development of telecommunication towers should not be left to the exclusive authority of a state council.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hilary S. Adams