



State of Connecticut

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H.B. 5504, AN ACT CONCERNING SITING OF CELL PHONE TOWERS NEAR SCHOOLS.

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee: I am writing in support of *H.B. 5504, An Act Concerning Siting of Cell Phone Towers Near Schools.*

There remains a high level of uncertainty regarding the effects of radiation from cell towers, especially as it may relate to children's health. The Greenwich Delegation, in conjunction with the town, are requesting this legislation to address that uncertainty. Notwithstanding the constraining factors of the Telecommunication Act of 1996, this bill would take further steps to safeguard our children by prohibiting the siting of a cell phone tower within seven hundred and fifty feet of a school or day care centers.

Concern is increasing regarding the siting of cell towers adjacent to school grounds in response to several proposed towers. Parents, families and health officials have all voiced their fears about the long-term health risks surrounding the proximity of cell towers.

Since there have not been any conclusive studies to examine the long-term effects of cell towers and radiation, we should err on the side of being cautious and require the towers be located as far away from the schools as practical. A 2005 factsheet provided by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) stated that, among recent findings, there is a direct relationship between radiation and cancer, while a 2008 report by World Health Organization (WHO) provided no conclusion.

The Council is currently responsible for providing siting review with respect to proposals to develop large-scale electric utility infrastructure and specific types of telecommunications facilities including cellular telephone towers. By passing this bill we will be giving the Siting Council one more, very important, condition to consider before rendering their decision.

With respect to the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, we need to do everything feasible to protect our children and residents and assure cell tower locations are farther away from schools than are currently permitted. I urge your support of *H.B. 5504, An Act Concerning Siting of Cell Phone Towers Near Schools.*