

Anna Silberberg  
170 Mile Creek Road  
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Energy and Technology Committee  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

16 March, 2010

Re: Letter in Support of Proposed House Bill 5504.

Currently there is a pending application for a cell tower to be built at 232 Shore Road in Old Lyme in a location that is about 500-1,000 feet from the southern property line of Mile Creek School. The application is being processed by the Connecticut Siting Council. Nowhere in this application is the proximity to Mile Creek Elementary School as well as to adjacent Little League Field, public playground and town park mentioned.

The official position is that radiation is so low that it poses no or very little danger to humans. At the same time we do know that exposure to radio frequencies is not good for humans but we think we know what safe levels are. However, science is constantly evolving. It took 70 years from the time people started smoking cigarettes on a large scale until the connection to lung cancer was confirmed. That is a whole life time before it was officially confirmed. The same is true for lead, PCB and asbestos.

The situation can be compared to high-voltage power lines. The official position is the same, that radiation is so low that it poses no or very little danger to humans. At the same time, Connecticut passed a law in 2004 that requires new high voltage lines to be buried underground rather than installed overhead where more radiation is submitted to the environment. The reason is that "Nobody knows for sure the long-term impact radiation could have on our public health. That's why we included language requiring lines near schools, day-care facilities, and playgrounds to be placed underground."

Both power lines and cell phone towers are critical infrastructure that is to be provided to our citizens. At the same time citizens should be protected from any potential risks associated with these installations. **I believe that the proposed House Bill 5504 is a step in the right direction to provide guidelines to the placement of infrastructure that emits radiation. There are studies that have shown that cancer risks are 3 to 4 times higher within 1,300 feet from cell towers. Therefore, I would ask for a 1,500 foot zone to be used as a guideline for a distance between a cell tower's emission field and the property line of a school, playground or day-care center.**

I also ask that regulations are put in place that requires cell tower applications to include maps that show proximity to schools, playgrounds and day-care centers, which is in line with current regulations for power lines.

Thank you for helping making sure that we take all interests into account when choosing cell tower locations and that includes the interest of our youngest children.

Sincerely,

Anna Silberberg