



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

*In Support of Raised Bill 6250
Sections 82-90
An Act Concerning The Siting Council.*

*Energy and Technology Committee
February 3, 2011*

Dear Senators Fonfara, and Witkos, Representatives Nardello, and Hoydick and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am writing again to request your consideration of section 82 - 90 found in Raised Bill 6250, AAC Siting Council, that prohibits cell towers to be located within 750 of schools and day care centers. The proposed site that inspired our bill last session is right in my district, just a few blocks from my house.

Last year, this committee passed our stand alone bill that is referenced above and now incorporated into a larger bill. It also passed the House of Representative, 139-0, but ultimately died on the Senate calendar on the final day of session. We appreciate the support and acknowledgment this committee has given to this issue, and I know the citizens around the state do, as well.

Proponents and supporters of this bill are well aware of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and the Connecticut Siting Council. Unfortunately, the 1996 Telecommunication Act does not take into account any health factors in the location of cell towers. While I personally find this way of thinking misguided and wrong, I do realize that it will have to be dealt with on the federal level.

In regard to the latter, the CT Siting Council was first established in 1972 and later expanded to deal with among other things, the placement of cell towers. This legislature created it, and it can disband it, or limit its powers. This bill doesn't address that, it only seeks to put added focus on the safety of children, students, and adults who work in schools and day care centers first when siting cell towers in the vicinity of these venues.

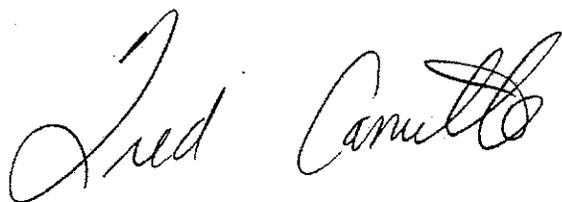
We don't have clear scientific evidence to substantiate nor deny the health risks caused by radiation emitted from these structures. However, please keep in mind that decades ago we also didn't have the data or evidence when we were told the same thing by the tobacco industry.

I am quite conservative on most issues before this legislature. This issue, however, is one which makes me subscribe to the old adage about being safe rather than sorry. No one can legitimately and reasonably fault this committee or the state legislature for erring on the side of caution. Waiting 20 years for a study to be published linking illness to these cell towers is too much of a risk to take at this time, or at any time.

To be fair and balanced, cell phones have become a vital part of our society and everyday lives. They can even be life saving devices. What we are advocating here is just some ability for municipalities to exert a degree of control when cell towers are proposed within 750 feet of schools and daycare centers.

Thanks again for your time and consideration on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fred Camillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "F".

Fred Camillo
State Representative
151st District