

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Senator John W. Fonfara, Co-Chair Representative Vickie Orsini Nardello, Co-Chair

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN T. SHABAN, 135th Assembly District
DATE: February 3, 2011
RE: **RB 6250 -- An Act Concerning the Siting Council**

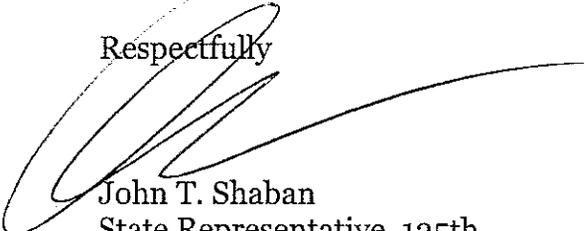
As a member of the Environmental Committee, I took part in a public hearing last week on SB 833 – An Act Concerning the Approval and Siting of Certain Telecommunication Tower Applications. SB 833 would require local approval of sites where the proposed tower would be located within 250 feet of a school, church or home. Significantly, the focus of the discussion was not whether to allow more local control concerning the placement of such towers, but how much control should be restored to local land use boards.

Similarly, RB 6250 -- An Act Concerning the Siting Council -- reflects the same effort to put some local control back into the mix. RB 6250 would permit the Siting Council to approve a tower placement within 750 feet of a school, church, day care or home only if the Council finds that no technically, legally and/or environmentally viable alternative sites providing a greater distance exist in the Town. On behalf of the citizens of the 135th Assembly District, I urge the Committee to support RB 6250. The citizens of my district, and our State in general, have felt disconnected from and largely ignored by the siting process as it is presently structured.

Page Two

Notably, Proposed Bills 5124 and 5125, both of which have been referred to this Committee, would further these same goals by creating a presumption at the Connecticut Siting Council in favor of Town-proposed sites. The proposed bills would require the Council to consider, among other things, the environmental impact, view shed, and functionality of all proposed sites, and to accept the Town-proposed site(s) absent an affirmative showing by the developer that the Town's site is "substantially inferior" considering such factors. On behalf of the citizens of the 135th Assembly District, I urge the Committee to incorporate these concepts into any final product deriving from RB 6250.

Respectfully



John T. Shaban
State Representative, 135th