



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LILE R. GIBBONS
ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
ASSISTANT HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

27 SUNSET ROAD
OLD GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT 06870
TELEPHONE
HOME: (203) 637-0784
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
E-MAIL: Lile.Gibbons@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING 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:

Once again, I come before you requesting 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 genesis of this bill came from an application by T-Mobile to the Connecticut Siting Council for permission to place a cell tower on property adjacent to a local elementary school in Greenwich.

While there is currently not definitive scientific evidence proving negative health factors to children exposed to repeated emissions from cell towers, there is much unease about these emissions and their possible affect on children. Parents of children attending schools which have cell towers sited within 750 feet are concerned about the effect of daily exposure from electromagnetic fields. Given the possible detrimental problems associated with exposure, it would be prudent for Connecticut to err on the side of caution and not allow cell towers to be placed near where children congregate on a daily basis.

The Federal Telecommunication Act of 1996 states the Council must consider the environmental impact in the siting of a facility. However, it is not required to take into consideration health factors associated with possible harmful emissions emanating from the electronic fields of a cell tower.

Page 2

I urge the committee to discuss possible negative health effects with the Connecticut Siting Council and, if necessary, mandate the Council to disallow a cell tower to be sited next to a school or day care center.

Given the strong opposition to cell towers both in the proximity of schools and day care centers and in residential neighborhoods, I believe the cell companies must assume some of the responsibility for the distribution of cell service so as not to antagonize the neighbors and the surrounding community. There is newer technology (albeit, possibly more expensive), yet this technology is constantly changing and being upgraded. Since there is so much controversy on the siting of these towers, I believe the legislature should act and mandate the cell companies research and use the latest, least conspicuous and most advanced technology.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lile R. Gibbons

Lile Gibbons
State Representative