



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF THE
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

**SUBMITTED TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE,
IN REFERENCE TO
RAISED BILL NO. 5271
AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING COUNCIL
MARCH 1, 2012**

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, ranking and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Linda Roberts. I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Siting Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony in connection with Raised Bill No. 5271, An Act Concerning the Siting Council.

This Bill seeks to make various changes to the Siting Council's procedures, including ones directly related to the siting of certain facilities.

There are already numerous provisions in the existing statutes to provide guidelines for the Siting Council, and the Council strictly adheres to them. We understand that Raised Bill No. 5271 serves to clarify legislative intent and codify existing practice, and, with that understanding, the Council has no objections.

However, we would like to note for the record that the Council has always shared the concerns behind this proposal and has addressed them on a regular basis. We heavily scrutinize each application. We develop a lengthy record related to the purported need and compare that with the evidence about adverse environmental effects. The Council has seldom authorized the development of towers in the areas near schools or day care centers and only when a need is established and there is no alternative site available. The legislature trusted the Council with this discretion and the members have respected that trust.

We strongly support the changes to the Municipal Participation Account. This revision will more adequately define the timeline for reimbursement requests from municipalities and will streamline our interaction with the treasurer's office.

In summary, I would like to repeat that the Siting Council finds that this proposed legislation serves to clarify legislative intent and codify existing practice. On that basis, we support the passage of Raised Bill No 5271.

Linda Roberts
Executive Director