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Testimony
In Support of Raised Bill 5271
Lines 82-90
An Act Concerning the Siting Council
Energy and Technology Committee
March 1, 2012

Good Afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick, and members of the committee. I am here today to testify in support of **Raised Bill 5271, An Act Concerning the Siting Council, specifically lines 82-90.** This section prohibits the placement of cell towers within 250 feet of schools and day care centers.

Last session this committee passed legislation enacting these standards. I appreciate all the work you all have done in the past on this issue and I thank you for including it again this session.

There is concern about the siting of cell towers so close to schools in response to several proposed towers in my district. Many parents, families and health officials have voiced their concerns about the long term health effects of placing these towers so close to schools and day cares. Notwithstanding the constraining factors of the Telecommunication Act of 1996, lines 82-90 of this bill take necessary steps to safeguard our children by prohibiting the siting of cell towers too close to schools and day cares.

While there has yet to be any conclusive studies done on the long-term effects of cell towers and radiation, a 2005 factsheet provided by the National Cancer Institute state that, among recent findings, there is a direct relationship between radiation and cancer. I believe that it is best to err on the side of being cautious when it comes to the long term health of our children.

Currently the Siting Council is responsible for providing siting review with respect to proposals to develop large-scale utility infrastructure and telecommunications facilities including cellular towers. By passing this bill we will be giving the Siting Council one more, important, condition to consider before rendering their decision.

Again, I thank the members of the Energy and Technology Committee for including this issue in HB 5271.
Sincerely,

L. Scott Frantz
State Senator, 36th District