



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**MEMBER**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 1, 2012

FROM: Representative John T. Shaban, 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Re: HB 5271- AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING COUNCIL.

I would like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator John Fonfara and Representative Vicki Nardello, the Honorable Vice Chairs Senator Bob Duff and Representative Lonnie Reed, and the Ranking Members Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative Laura Hoydick, and the entire membership of the Energy and Technology Committee for their time this afternoon addressing this issue.

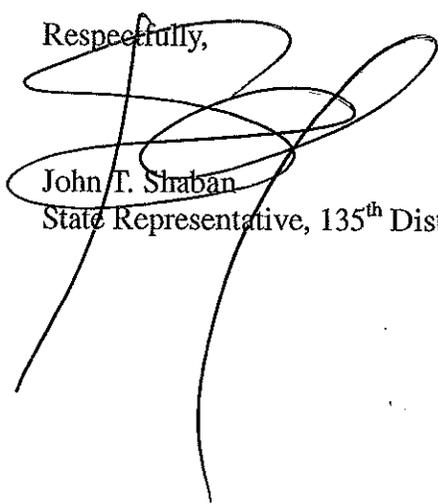
Last session we in the General Assembly considered a number of bills aimed at increasing the role of local governments in the siting of cell towers. Members of this committee, the Environment Committee and other legislators proposed bills to increase local input – seeking among other things, more control in connection with the placement of towers near schools and homes, and/or to give a preferential evidentiary resumption to alternative sites proposed by local municipalities. Significantly, the focus of these discussions was not whether to allow more local control concerning the placement of cell towers, but how much control should be restored to local officials.

In the end, the House and Senate passed Public Act 11-107, which would have, among other things, required local approval of cell tower sites located within 250 feet of a school or daycare center, and provided additional notice to the municipality concerning cell tower applications.

In July 2011, however, the Governor vetoed PA 11-107 based on some internal inconsistencies that could have confused the standards used for cell tower placement with those used for other telecommunication tower placements.

HB 5271 aims to cure these inconsistencies, and to again advance the goal of giving local officials a modicum of control in the cell tower siting process. While PA 11-107 and HB 5271 might not go far enough for some, it represents a sound compromise and a positive step in the right direction. I thus urge you to support HB 5271. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,



John T. Shaban  
State Representative, 135<sup>th</sup> District