

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

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Connecticut Siting Council
Chairman Daniel F. Caruso
Executive Director S. Derek Phelps
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
August 7th, 2007

RE: Docket No. 332

Dear Commissioners,

The Washington Cell Tower Committee is writing to you to encourage you to deny Cellco's request to put a tower on Rt. 202 in Washington because this application is redundant to a pending application in New Milford, and does not conform to our regulations or town values. We want to emphasize that a recently completed survey of town residents shows that the vast majority oppose this application and feel it to be unnecessary, unsightly and unhealthy.

The Cell Tower Committee, a standing subcommittee of Washington's Conservation Commission, was formed in August of 2002 as a joint project with the Washington Environmental Council. The intention of this committee was to educate the town's people and commissions regarding cell towers. Over the past five years the committee has collected and presented information regarding cell towers and state and federal regulations; the environment and health; property devaluation, and aesthetics concerns regarding tower design and placement, to the attention of our Board of Selectmen, Conservation and other town commissions.

We are a well informed and active committee within our town.

On January 16th, 1998, Washington's Zoning Regulations Section 13.19 Telecommunication Antennae, Facilities and Antenna Towers Including Person Wireless Service Facilities and Towers became effective.

"The purposes of this regulation are to:

- a. Preserve the character and appearance of the Town while simultaneously allowing adequate Personal Wireless Services to be developed;
- b. Protect the rural, scenic, historic, environmental and natural or man-made resources of the community and the Town including...scenic roads;
- c. Provide standards and requirements for regulation, placement, construction, monitoring, design, and modification and removal of Personal Wireless Service Facilities;
- e. Preserve property values...;
- f. Minimize the total number and height of Towers throughout the community;

- g. Locate... so no negative impact ... on general safety, welfare and quality of life...;
- h. ... minimize and mitigate the adverse visual impact of towers...;
- k. Provide consistency with the Washington's Plan of Development with respect to preserving the rural, historic and agrarian character of the land use including protection of the landscape and scenic views...

Section 13.19.8 General Requirements

- a. All new towers shall be set back at least one time the height of the tower plus 50' from all boundaries of the site.
- o. No Tower... shall be located:
 - 2. Closer than 750' on a horizontal plane, to an existing dwelling unit or day care center, hospital nursing home, church or other place of worship.

The people of Washington stand by our regulations as written to preserve rural character and protect our people. A survey this year showed 65% were in favor of keeping our regulations and 73% care about protecting aesthetics and our scenic view sheds. These values further reinforce those adopted in Washington's Natural Resource Inventory Report of 2000 and the 2003 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Washington is not a town of industry or large commercial projects like our neighbors to the south or north on Rt. 202. There is intrinsic value in maintaining our rural character. Formerly an agricultural community, our products now are education, tourism and real estate. Most of Washington's 1,500 jobs are associated with public and private educational facilities situated in our lush landscapes. The town's other main source of economic development comes from the seasonal and occasional homes located in Washington which result in local employment and enhance our tax base.

Washington's stretch of Rt. 202 is crisscrossed with scenic roads, historic homes and villages; archeological sites; wildlife corridors and critical habitats; and the magnificent 380+ acre Macricostas Preserve. Installation of a 157' mono pine against a back drop of 60'- 80' deciduous trees will scar this landscape forever. There was only a single survey respondent who felt a mono pine to be an acceptable tower form.

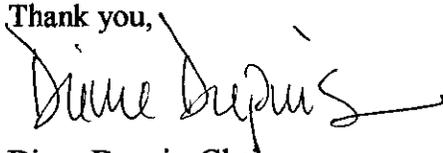
We ask the Siting Council Commissioners to consider, who will benefit from putting a tower on these proposed sites? Our survey, completed in June shows 47% of cell phone users had coverage on Rt. 202. During the hearings Verizon testified that there is a 7.14 % dropped call rate on this stretch; their desire for a 1% dropped call rate on a scenic road with difficult terrain is not federally mandated but part of a corporate bottom line and advertising strategy. Those who drive on Rt. 684 in New York, a major piece of the interstate highway system, know that many stretches of that highway do not have service.

The over riding theme in all of Washington's town documents is to protect our rural character. We believe the application for a tower at 425 Litchfield Turnpike, New

Milford, Docket 342, would provide comparable coverage to this drive through corridor without damage to our scenic resources, property values or health and safety. 45% of those responding on the survey were concerned with health impacts and we applaud the EMR Policy's decision to conduct epidemiological studies should a tower be erected.

We hope that the Commissioners will consider our values and regulations and deny the application to put a tower on Rt 202 in Washington.

Thank you,



Diane Dupuis, Chair
Cell Tower Committee



Susan Payne, Chair
Conservation Commission
Town of Washington

Enclosures

Letters to the Board of Selectmen

Resident E mails

Petition Signatures

Zoning Regulations Section 13.19

2000 Natural Resource Inventory Report and Recommendations

2003 Town Plan of Conservation and Development

Litchfield County Times Editorial and Cartoon June 14, 2007