



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM TONG  
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ORIGINAL

April 10, 2014

John Emra, President  
AT&T Connecticut  
2 Washington Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Norwalk, CT 06854



Dear Mr. Emra:

As you may be aware, New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) has recently filed an application with the Connecticut Siting Council for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility on 560 West Hill Road in Stamford and has been given the docket number 447. I respectfully request that AT&T reconsider and withdraw this application.

Residents from the area of West Hill Road have contacted me with a number of concerns about this location. First, the current proposal will likely have a significant negative impact on the property values of nearby homeowners. A home is the most substantial investment that most people will make in their lives and there are several factors that go into the decision to purchase a home, including the character of the neighborhood and the visual quality of the environment. The area around West Hill road is characterized by scenic natural vistas and is zoned by the City of Stamford as a residential area, with the location of the proposed tower being reserved for a single family residence. When purchasing their homes the residents of the neighborhood had the reasonable expectation that the natural beauty would not be spoiled by an industrial communications facility. As shown in the pictures provided in attachment five of the application, the tower will be clearly visible above the tree line and will likely be visible through the trees during the six months when trees are denuded of foliage, a fact that is not fully accounted for in the application. These residents bought their homes in part for the natural scenery and can expect to sell their homes to individuals interested in the same, therefore an industrial facility of this magnitude will have a significant negative impact on surrounding property values, causing the

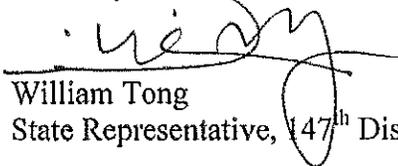
loss of thousands of dollars to residents and to the property tax rolls of the City of Stamford.

Second, the proposed location of the tower is less than three feet from inland wetland resources. According to attachment four of the application the development of the site will result in "secondary impacts" to the adjacent wetlands. Due to the close proximity it seems unlikely that the site can be developed with adequate erosion and sediment controls or mitigation of the negative impact on storm water drainage. Any impact on such a vital portion of our wetlands, wetlands that form one of the headwater wetland tributaries that drain into the Mianus River, is unacceptable.

Finally, the proposed location is in close proximity to the Agudath Shalom cemetery. Much like the views shown from nearby homes, attachment five demonstrates that the tower will be visible above the tree line and will likely be visible through the trees during the months when the trees are without leaves. A cemetery is meant for quiet contemplation, mourning and prayer. The current natural splendor of the cemetery aids in that goal and is surely a consideration of those that have chosen to be buried there. The tower, in addition to the noise that will be created by construction and maintenance of the facility is an unacceptable and unreasonable disturbance of the natural character of the cemetery and will negatively impact the families during some of the most emotionally fraught moments of their lives.

For these reasons I respectfully request that AT&T withdraw this application and consider alternatives that are less impactful and disturbing to the character of the surrounding neighborhoods. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
William Tong  
State Representative, 147<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Connecticut Siting Council