



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE THEMIS KLARIDES  
ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER

23 EAST COURT  
DERBY, CONNECTICUT 06418

HOME: (203) 735-5911  
OFFICE: 1-800-842-1423  
FAX: (860) 240-0207

E-MAIL: Themis.Klarides@housegop.ct.gov

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January 11, 2010

Chairman Daniel F. Caruso  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

RECEIVED  
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CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

Dear Commissioner Caruso:

Tomorrow - January 12<sup>th</sup> - the Connecticut Siting Council will be conducting a public hearing in Woodbridge on AT&T's proposal to construct a 170 foot tall monopole at 1990 Litchfield Turnpike, on a hill at the corner of Litchfield Turnpike and Dillon Road, which is part of the historic Shepherd Farm property. Statements will be presented by the Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, Amity Historical Society, and concerned Woodbridge residents who are strongly opposed to the construction of this cell tower at this location.

Many in the neighborhood are concerned about the esthetics and introduction of an "industrial" look to an historic and bucolic part of Woodbridge. Townspeople are still adjusting to the unsightly transmission towers.

This monopole will tower over a fragile National Historic site, the ruins of a large c. 1800 kiln. This part of Woodbridge is a historic "corridor". It includes the Thomas Darling House and barns which are listed on the Federal Register of Historic places and several homes and farms from the 1800's. The concern is how can a 170 foot cell tower enhance the charm and unique character of this historic corridor? The tower will overwhelm all the other features of the landscape.

Additionally, this area contains unique natural resources. The Regional Water Authority owns 5000 acres of lakes, streams and forested watershed. West Rock Ridge State Park and the huge rocky cliffs are across the road from the proposed cell tower site. The Town owns part of the original Shepherd Farm purchased under the auspices of the Conservation Commission.

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There are two alternative sites for this proposed cell tower that have been identified and would appear to offer viable alternatives to the Shepherd Farms site:

1. Behind the proposed site is a series of transmission towers. Residents in this area had hoped that co-location would be feasible. Either the transmission towers behind the proposed site or the transmission towers on the water company land nearby could be used. None of the utilities (ATT, UI, ISO, RWA) appear willing to work with one another on this effort.
2. A commercial building at 1764-1768 Litchfield Turnpike which is within 2 miles of the proposed site and which currently has 2 small monopoles on the roof. The listing agent for this building, which is in the process of being sold, has indicated that the new owners of this property are enthusiastic about adding the ATT equipment.

I respectfully request that AT&T and the Siting Council consider these two alternative sites for the proposed cell tower. I also ask that all parties involved in tomorrow's public hearing seriously consider the testimony which will be provided by the many Woodbridge residents who have serious concerns and reservations about this proposal. Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Themis Klárides  
Deputy House Republican Leader

cc: S. Derek Phelps, Siting Council Legislative Liaison