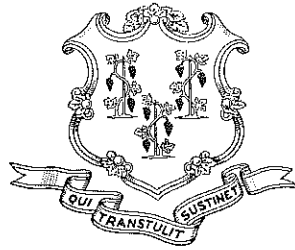


SENATOR ANDREA L. STILLMAN
Twentieth District

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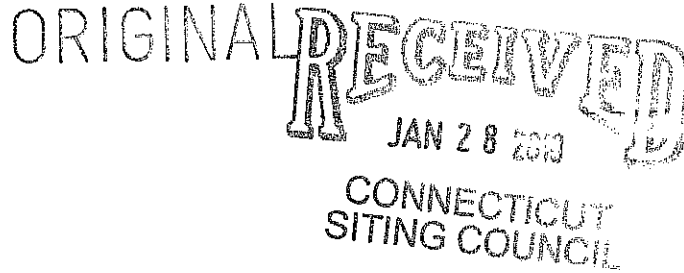
State of Connecticut
SENATE

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Chair
Public Safety & Security Committee

Member
Education Committee
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
Public Health Committee

January 15, 2010



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

Re: Docket No. 396 – SBA Towers II, LLC, application to construct, maintain, and operate a telecommunications facility at 49 Brainerd Road, Niantic, CT

Dear Chairman Caruso,

As the state Senator representing the town of East Lyme (which includes the village of Niantic), I would like to state my clear opposition to SBA Towers' proposed development of a telecommunications facility at 49 Brainerd Road, Niantic.

Situating a cell tower on this rural country road would prove detrimental on many levels. Practically speaking, there are safety and environmental impacts from the start—when construction would begin. Brainerd Road is a very rural, very narrow, country road with no outlet. In fact, there are sections of the road where vehicles must pull over to the side and wait for oncoming vehicles to pass one at a time. Construction vehicles and equipment would prove hazardous to neighborhood drivers, as well as hazardous to the woodlands bordering one side of the road, and the Pattagansett River bordering the other.

Post-construction, environmental distress would continue—thwarting the efforts of citizens who have been dedicated to protecting and preserving ecologically sensitive areas of the town. Specifically, the East Lyme Land Trust owns a 26-acre nature preserve (known as Raven's Wood) at the end of Brainerd Road, directly adjacent to the proposed cell tower site. Industrial development in the area could irreparably damage the sensitive plant and animal habitats in the nearby Pattagansett River, marshlands, and woodlands. In short, allowing a telecommunications facility in this area would directly contradict the Council's statutory mandate to "protect the environment and ecology of the state and to minimize damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values."

I recently attended a meeting with the residents of Brainerd Road, and it was very clear to me that the people who live there are adamantly opposed to the proposed facility, due to the negative effects the tower could have on the environment and on the character of their neighborhood. As you know, the East Lyme Board of Selectmen has also opposed the siting of this tower at that location, and the Board is looking elsewhere for potential sites.

I strongly urge the Siting Council to reject this application and to instruct SBA Towers to work with the town to locate a more suitable site.

Thank you for your consideration of our significant concerns regarding this proposal. I look forward to attending the February 23 public hearing at Camp Rell.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrea L. Stillman", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Andrea L. Stillman
State Senator, 20th District

cc: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director, CT Siting Council
Energy and Telecommunications Members, CT Siting Council
Representative Ed Jutila, 37th District
Paul Formica, First Selectman, East Lyme