

DAVID E. DOBIN

Please Reply To Bridgeport  
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January 9, 2024

**Via e-mail and Federal Express**

Attorney Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

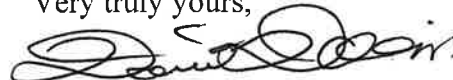
**Re: Docket No. 516 - The United Illuminating Company (UI) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Fairfield to Congress Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project that consists of the relocation and rebuild of its existing 115- kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from the railroad catenary structures to new steel monopole structures and related modifications along approximately 7.3 miles of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Metro-North Railroad corridor between Structure B648S located east of Sasco Creek in Fairfield and UI's Congress Street Substation in Bridgeport, and the rebuild of two existing 115-kV transmission lines along 0.23 mile of existing UI right-of-way to facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI's existing Ash Creek, Resco, Pequonnock and Congress Street Substations traversing the municipalities of Bridgeport and Fairfield, Connecticut.**

**Letter from Town of Fairfield's First Selectman William A. Gerber**

Dear Attorney Bachman:

Enclosed please find an original and fifteen copies of a letter from the Town of Fairfield's First Selectman William A. Gerber regarding Docket No. 516.

Very truly yours,



David E. Dobin

cc: Service List



## Town of Fairfield

Office of the First Selectman

William A. Gerber  
First Selectman  
203-256-3030

725 Old Post Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
[wgerber@fairfieldct.org](mailto:wgerber@fairfieldct.org)

January 8, 2024

### VIA ELECTRONIC EMAIL

Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
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[siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov) and  
[Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov](mailto:Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov)

**RE: Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need  
("Application") submitted by The United Illuminating Company ("UI"), Docket 516**

Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council:

I have closely monitored the proceedings regarding UI's Application that is pending before the Connecticut Siting Council.

UI has failed to demonstrate that there is a public need for this project. UI claims to be merely replacing old, aging infrastructure and admits that it does not project any need for additional capacity in the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, motivated by a desire for profit and not any actual need, UI's proposal is designed to carry significantly more electricity than it needs to. As a result, UI's proposal involves the construction of taller monopoles, the unprecedented seizure of over 19 acres of easements over private property, and devastating impacts on the environment and precious religious, cultural, and historic resources in the Town of Fairfield.

Coupled with UI's profit-driven overdesign of its project, UI's failure to adequately consider alternatives that would have fewer adverse effects on the environment and local resources is also

appalling. UI should be required to modify its proposal to match (and not exceed) the existing capacity of its transmission lines and to bury its lines under public roads. Alternatively, UI should have examined building smaller overhead transmission lines that do not necessitate the taking of any private property. Indeed, UI admits that it did not seriously consider such options and even ruled out installing its transmission lines under Route 1 in Fairfield without conducting the requisite thermal studies that any reasonable utility company ought to perform.

The Town is further concerned about the process that unfolded. UI refused to respond to interrogatories seeking information directly relevant to the undeniable fact that UI proposes building taller overhead structures to accommodate conductors that have far more capacity than anyone projects – which directly results in UI's need to take 19+ acres of private property. The Town is also concerned with the arbitrary one-hour time limit imposed on the testimony of all non-UI witnesses. There should have been one set of rules governing the hearing, rather than separate treatment for UI.

In light of all of the above, I respectfully urge the Council to reject UI's Application and order UI to redesign its project to take into account the concerns raised by the Town and its residents in these proceedings, and to avoid taking any private property of Connecticut residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Gerber", written in a cursive style.

William A. Gerber  
First Selectman