



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 16, 2023

The Honorable Tony Hwang
State Senate – 28th District
The Honorable Jennifer Leeper
State Representative – 132nd District
The Honorable Cristin McCarthy Vahey
State Representative – 134th District
Connecticut General Assembly -Fairfield State Delegation
Hartford, CT 06106
Tara.frilling@cga.ct.gov

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.

Dear Senator Hwang, Representative Leeper, and Representative Vahey:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated October 16, 2023 concerning the above-referenced application. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50/(b), a copy of each application is required to be submitted to each member of the legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility is to be located for review.

Before reaching a final decision on an application, the Council must carefully consider all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the applicant, parties and intervenors in the proceeding, and consider all of the concerns received from members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at portal.ct.gov/csc under the “Pending Matters” link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melanie A. Bachman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Melanie A. Bachman

Executive Director

MAB/MP/laf

c: Service List, dated October 3, 2023

Council Members



State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

October 16, 2023

VIA EMAIL TO: Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov
AND FIRST CLASS US MAIL

Melanie Bachman, Esq.
CT Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

**RE: CSC Docket No. 516, Application for Development Within 7.3 miles of the
DOT's Metro-North Railroad corridor in Bridgeport and Fairfield**

Dear Ms. Bachman:

We, the Fairfield State delegation, are writing in regard to the above referenced application that the United Illuminating Company ("UI") has pending before the Connecticut Siting Council ("CSC").

We appreciate UI's willingness to conduct a public meeting on October 4th to hear the concerns of residents, businesses, and property owners in our community. However, as we each witnessed that evening, the community's concerns were not adequately addressed and in many cases were only exacerbated.

The community was frustrated that UI did not have the appropriate representatives in attendance who could respond to their concerns, leading to added distrust. Legitimate and detailed questions were raised by attendees and the responses they received were at times evasive, dismissive, and vague. UI's own stated goal at the onset of the meeting was to work with the Town of Fairfield and our community to address their concerns and bring clarity to the scope and logistics of Docket No. 516 before the Siting Council. The October 4th meeting failed to meet that goal and raised additional questions.

We are glad that a UI representative, speaking on behalf of the company at this meeting, affirmed publicly that UI will not oppose any future concerned or impacted residents or businesses requesting to become intervenors in Docket No. 516. However, all of these intervenors, and the Town of Fairfield as a party, only benefit from this status if UI agreed to withdraw their application and refile, therefore allowing everyone sufficient time to understand the full scope of your proposal and engage experts who can speak to the technical aspects of it. Unfortunately, on Oct. 12, UI indicated that they were not willing to provide the affected parties and broader community this opportunity when they stated that they would not agree to a request to refile the application and that they would not join in a request for Motion to Amend the Siting Council Schedule.

As representatives of this community, we are extremely grateful that the CSC has granted two additional evidentiary hearings in response to our community's concerns about Docket No. 516. Nonetheless, further evidentiary hearings will be required for all intervenors and parties to make their cases, present their evidence, and call their witnesses. There is clear community consensus that the current proposal is insufficient and undesirable.

While we understand that the CSC has a statutory timeline of one year from the application filing to render a decision, given the extensive scope of requested easements on private property and small business (19.25 acres of new permanent easements) and the lack of explicit and contemporaneous notification even to property abutters, we feel compelled to directly appeal to the CT Siting Council as members of the Elected delegation from Fairfield and Southport and formally request that you consider the request from the Intervenors to amend the Siting Council Schedule and give the impacted member of the community reasonable time to gather witnesses and testimony that would help to better inform the Siting Council of the true impact of the project. This action would allow all parties to have the time to thoughtfully and publicly assess the magnitude of UI's proposal and feasible and amenable alternatives that exist.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Respectfully yours,



State Senator Tony Hwang, SD 28



State Representative Jennifer Leeper, HD 13



State Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, HD 133



State Representative Sarah Keitt, HD 134

CC: Town of Fairfield Board of Selectman
Governor Ned Lamont
Chairs, CT General Assembly Energy & Technology Committee
Attorney General William Tong
Commissioner of Dept of Transportation Garrett Eucalitto
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Congressman Jim Himes