



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 6, 2023

The Honorable Tony Hwang
State Senator – 28th Senate District
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Suite 3400
Hartford, CT 06106
Tony.Hwang@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:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated September 6, 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,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/MP/laf

c: Service List, dated August 29, 2023
Council Members

SENATOR TONY HWANG
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
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State of Connecticut
SENATE

CHIEF DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER

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REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER – TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEMBER – FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
MEMBER – PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

September 6, 2023

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director
State of Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Opposition Testimony for CT Siting Council 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 (State Senator Tony Hwang, 28th Senate District)

Dear Executive Director Bachman and Members of the CT Siting Council:

My name is Tony Hwang, State Senator for Connecticut's 28th District, which includes Fairfield and Southport. As a 15-year veteran of the CT General Assembly and former vice chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee, I am quite familiar with CT Siting Council docket requests and the energized and passionate community and intervenor engagement against these challenging siting requests.

Please accept this written testimony in opposition to Connecticut Siting Council Docket No. 516 as currently requested by UI - for the environmental compatibility and public need of extending an electric transmission line across CT Department of Transportation's Metro North railroad corridor in the vicinity of Sasco Creek in Fairfield/Southport and UI's Congress Street transmission tower locations.

Over the past several months, I have personally visited the impacted sites; interacted and learned from many residents, businesses, town officials, and also corporate representatives of United Illuminating about this project (docket #516). The community and intervenors have significant concerns and I agree with them. These include:

1. The ability of the proposed infrastructure to withstand extreme weather
2. The impact on their daily lives of residents as the project is constructed
3. Violate personal property rights written without easements in a scenic historic district
4. Undermine improving wetlands and environmental conservation efforts against rising sea levels
5. Violation of business right of ways without easements, causing irreparable economic damages

I understand and respect the difficult task of the CT Siting Council's role in evaluating and approving projects that upgrade our energy grid transmission lines to feed our insatiable need for electrical power is important and vital to future reliability, safety, and economic sustainability in our region. I would ask that, when making your final decision, you listen to the concerns of the town and its residents and make your decision after weighing all factors to compromise and consider proven and practical solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. I look forward to continuing to work with United Illuminating, the town of Fairfield, and the Connecticut Siting Council on a resolution that will help to balance the interests of all parties.

Sincerely,

Tony Hwang
28th District