

November 13, 2023

Melanie A. Bachman, Esq.
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: MCM Holdings, LLC
Proposed Wireless Telecommunications Tower Facility
288 Simpaug Turnpike (Parcel 12-29), Redding, CT
Docket 517

Intervenor Danielle Caldwell Testimony:

Dear Connecticut Siting Council Members,

I have been a Redding resident for over 19 years. I live and work in West Redding. Over the years, I have not experienced a deficiency in Verizon's wireless communications service. I make phone calls without disruption from my home at 10 Fire Hill Lane as well as from my place of work at 7 Long Ridge Road. This project would have a permanent presence without adequate data to confirm the actual need for this tower and antennas. Since the proposed cell tower is to provide service to portions of southwestern Bethel and southern Danbury, I respectfully ask that MCM Holdings and Verizon reconsider the location to a more commercial or industrial area outside of Redding.

I, along with many other Redding residents, take great pride in our protected land and natural beauty. Redding is known as the "Vermont of Connecticut" because of its bucolic setting and plentiful open and unspoiled spaces. This is what makes Redding unique and why so many of us have chosen to live and raise our children here. We are "Small Town, Big Outdoors"; please help us keep it that way. The proposed cell tower would have an undue impact on the rural character of our town.

The Hoyt Scout Preserve land was donated to the scouts over 55 years ago by Alice Sanford for the purpose of *recreation*. The Preserve's website describes it as being "pristine forest and fields." I believe it is incumbent upon us to be a voice for both the children and for the wildlife (even beyond those endangered) who would be most adversely affected by a 150-foot cell tower on their land. Please consider the loss of habitat for our native birds, insects (including the honey bees adjacent at New Pond Farm and across the road at Marchant Farm), bats, reptiles, fish and animals.

Our safety is not assured even if the cell tower is compliant with FCC limits. FCC limits were set in 1996 (27 years ago!) and these limits are not based on protection against long-term health damages including cancer and biological effects. *Radiofrequency radiation standards have failed to keep up with technology*. There is continuous and growing evidence of negative health impacts on humans and animals when exposed to cell tower emissions while living in close proximity to the site.

Finally, please consider the fact that New Pond Farm Education Center and Westbrook Nature School both provide outdoor educational programs for children and families *in very close proximity* to this proposed site. As Director of Westbrook Nature School, I can attest that our mission of helping children build an authentic relationship with nature is in direct contrast to this proposal. Our goal is for children to connect with nature and *disconnect from technology*. And we model the importance of respecting all living things including plants, insects, animals, and humans.

For all of the reasons above, I respectfully ask you to deny the request by MCM Holdings and Verizon to construct the wireless telecommunications tower in our town. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Caldwell".

Danielle Caldwell