



December 12, 2019

Kent Board of Selectmen
Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Blvd
Kent, CT 06757

Re: Cell Tower Proposed by Homeland Towers & New Cingular Wireless, Richards or Bald Hill Roads, Kent

To the Board of Selectmen:

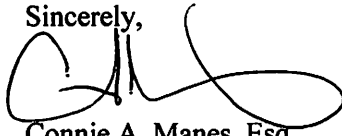
The Kent Land Trust is Kent's community land trust. Our members work to protect Kent's natural and scenic resources for the benefit of the public and future generations. In furtherance of that mission I respectfully submit the below comments with regard to the cell tower proposed by Homeland Towers and New Cingular Wireless PCS on Richards Road or Bald Hill Road.

The Kent Land Trust was incorporated in 1989 by a group of concerned Kent residents seeking to preserve rural character and natural resources within Kent. From the beginning we have been guided by the conservation priorities of the community of Kent and have conducted our activities in coordination with community and municipal partners. As a practice we remain current on municipal activities impacting Kent's natural and built environment, provide guidance on conservation-related land use matters, and align our strategic priorities with town objectives for conservation including its Plan of Conservation and Development. Our Criteria for the selection of conservation projects include consideration of Town Character Areas as well as "land which provides scenic views from public roads or trail corridors."

We agree with the comments submitted by the Kent Conservation Commission regarding the critical importance of scenic vistas to Kent's rural character, and the prospective impact of the cell tower sites described in the Technical Report. Simply stated, a tower at either of the Bald Hill Road or Richards Road sites would negatively impact scenic views from public roads and public recreation attractions including fishing and swimming areas in North and South Spectacle Lakes and Lake Waramaug. In addition, it is possible that towers at either of the Bald Hill or Richards Road sites would be visible during leaf-off seasons from public trails on Kent Land Trust properties including trails in its East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve, Bull Mountain Preserve, West Aspectuck Scenic Wetlands, and Skiff Mountain South Preserve.

Scenic views are integral to Kent's identity as a beautiful, small, special, healthy place to live and visit in the great outdoors. Kent's residents care deeply about the natural and rural appearance of their town and depend significantly on Kent's scenic aspects as an economic driver. We join the Conservation Commission in encouraging every effort to: (a) limit cellular infrastructure to the minimum necessary, (b) site cellular infrastructure in areas of least impact on viewshed, and (c) use infrastructure designed to minimize visibility and viewshed impact. We trust that the Board of Selectmen will work to ensure that the priorities and strategic objectives of the Town of Kent and its residents are given full consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Manes', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Connie A. Manes, Esq.
Executive Director