

March 15, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Bachman,

You have heard from members of the Sherman Telecommunications Committee (STC) at various times over the past few years as we have gathered information directly from the Connecticut Siting Council concerning past cell tower application filings and topographical information related to the provision of cell service in Southern Sherman. Today, we are writing to ask that you please consider approving the application for construction of a cell tower, filed as **Docket No. 499**.

We established the STC in 2018 to act as a clearinghouse of information related to cell service in Sherman. We have explored options for the provision of cell service where it was lacking, brought findings and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, and assisted in raising awareness of safety issues as they relate to the lack of cell service in our town. You can find meeting agendas and minutes posted on the Sherman Town Website [under community organizations](#).

The core of our concern always has been the safety of our residents and those who travel through Sherman, especially southern Sherman. The lack of cell service along southern routes 37 and 39 poses a particularly high level of risk, as evidenced by thousands of DOT accident reports and the [personal accounts](#) of residents and travelers. In fact, our group first met in 2015 as Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman (RRCSS) to actively find a solution for the provision of cell service. We worked to mobilize residents, town officials and stakeholders, such as the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department, which is currently without a home for its emergency communications equipment.

Our personal experiences and difficulties living without cell service, and our efforts to bring together the parties who could help facilitate cell service in Sherman, go back further than 2015. Yet today, a year into the global pandemic without the single most effective communication tool available in the 21st century, we continue to find ourselves at risk. With your approval of the application filed as Docket No. 499, however, we finally will have a real solution.

Sincerely,

Sherman Telecommunications Committee
Terri Hahn and Zoe Sochor, Co-Chairs
Don Lowe, First Selectman
Gail Maletz
Al Zeisler