



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 14, 2021

William McCann
Chairman
Sherman Conservation Commission
liam57@charter.net

RE: **DOCKET NO. 499** – Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need
for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located
at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut.

Dear William McCann:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your additional correspondence
concerning Docket No. 499.

In reaching a final decision on an application, the Council carefully considers all of the facts
contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the applicant, parties and
intervenor in the proceeding, and 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 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. Your letter will be entered
in the public comment file related to this matter.

Sincerely,

s/Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

c: Council Members

Sherman Conservation Commission
Sherman Town Hall
Sherman, CT 06784

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

May 12, 2021

Dear Ms Bachman,

Based on the revised information available since the official filing of the application by Homeland Towers LLC in your Docket #499, we wanted to send a brief update to the comments that we sent on 3/16/21. Besides the list of concerns in our earlier communication, we have additional concerns regarding the protection of wildlife habitat.

In the application we learn that there is one State threatened species (slimy salamander) known to occur within or close to the parcel boundaries of the site. With recommendations from The State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Homeland relocated the tower site to provide a larger buffer area to protect the salamander habitat. This move also resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of trees that will be cut down, which we applaud.

However we also learn that there is a Federally listed Threatened Species (northern long eared bat), a State listed Endangered Species (little brown bat) and three State listed Species of Concern (eastern box turtle, eastern hognose snake and red bat) that are also known to occur in or near the boundaries.

DEEP has provided Homeland with a list of best practices to protect the habitat for the other species as well. These practices include:

- The avoidance of tree cutting from Nov 1st through March 31st
- The installation of bat houses in the area where trees will be cut
- The use of exclusionary fencing to keep the box turtles away from the construction site.
- Construction vehicles and materials should be parked/stored on gravel surfaces only

- Making sure that construction personnel are aware of the possible presence of the species of concern and instructing them on the identification of the animals and actions to be taken if they are encountered
- Having a herpetologist on site to ensure that protection guidelines remain in effect
- Avoid the degradation of wetlands, wet meadows, waterways and vernal pools

These protection strategies along with others recommended by DEEP, will help to mitigate some of the threat that the construction site if approved, could impose on these species whose populations are in decline due to vanishing habitat. To their credit Homeland has indicated that they intend to follow the guidelines from DEEP and the USFWS.

We would hope and recommend that if the Siting Council approves the proposal, that these protection strategies are mandatory and not just voluntary to assure that the construction project has as little impact as possible on these species of concern.

We thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

The Sherman Conservation Commission