



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

August 5, 2010

Honorable Dan Caruso, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Caruso:

We wish to communicate to you our serious concerns with respect to the conduct of the Siting Council hearing held in Cornwall on the evening of July 20, 2010 in connection with the proposed siting of a cell tower at 16 Bell St. Extension in Cornwall. While we were not present at the hearing, we have heard from several sources that members of the public, who are our constituents, were treated in a manner which was discourteous and highly unsettling to them.

It is our strong belief that citizens participating in the public hearing process, particularly those for whom this may be an unfamiliar experience, are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect at all times. Confidence in the important and difficult decision making entrusted to the Siting Council can only be achieved when Connecticut citizens are assured their concerns are fully heard and considered.

We ask that you and all members of the Council insure that all future public hearings are conducted giving every member of the public the courtesy they deserve.

Sincerely,

Andrew Roraback,
State Senator, 30th District

Roberta Willis
State Representative, 64th District

CC: Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor
Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman, Town of Cornwall
Fred Thaler

Makuc, Jaime

From: FRED THALER [fthaler@snet.net]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2010 11:39 AM
To: Sen. Roraback, Andrew
Subject: Re: CSC in Cornwall July 20th 2010
Attachments: I came for understanding and that I have.doc

Thank you for hearing my complaint about treatment by Chairman Caruso at the CSC hearing.

Please find attached email snet concurrently to R. Willis. I will be sending my wife's observation seperately.

Thank you,

Frederic I. Thaler

On July 20th 2010 in our little town of Cornwall we had a CSC hearing.

I applied for intervener status. The access road borders my property, on an abandoned ancient highway, which is presently used as a private drive, that has runoff problems and goes by and through an active wetland area,

I came to the hearing for understanding of the issues and the process and to speak and be heard.

The chair made clear that nothing my wife and I could say would have any bearing on the decision.

I came for understanding, but as I addressed my concerns, in my untutored manner and asked for help to express my concerns I was overwhelmed by the hostile treatment of the Chairman.

Sir, the citizens in your committee room witnessed your dismissive instructional manner.

That the meetings started late for the committees' reasons, and then the interveners were asked to be quick and brief, that the chair was dismissive and argumentative informed all of their insignificance.

That it was your committee room was pointed out.

CSC rulings trump town P&Z, inland wetlands and other local commissions.

It was clear that you were showing us, that the local town hearing was for your entertainment and amusement.

As your executive director said to me" keep quiet and you will learn."

The executive director explained that the record would be hard to transcribe if after the chair started speaking I continued or tried to speak for then I would be

interrupting. Am I to understand that the chair can speak, though another might be speaking, and then, that person is then interrupting the Chair?

The executive director so informed me by characterizing me as an interrupter of the chair.

We are of the New England Town Hall Tradition. We allow our citizens to speak and be heard.

We are unfamiliar with your way of the Chair and your ways of running your commission.

But sir, your treatment of my wife was dismissive and crossed to rudeness.

That you can place towers where you will does not entitle the arrogance and rudeness you displayed to me, my wife and this community.