

17752499342

To: Bill Stwart Page 1 of 1

2011-03-28 17:09:59 (GMT)

17702400342 From: Edward Franklin

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

SBA/NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC Application: DOCKET #412  
for a Certificate of Environmental  
Compatibility and Public Need  
for a Telecommunications Facility Located :  
at Wewaka Brook Road Bridgewater, Connecticut.

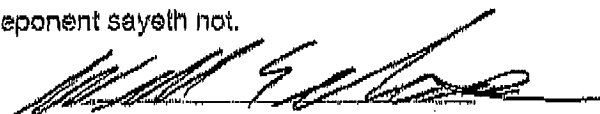
: MARCH 28, 2011

AFFIDAVIT OF

I, William T. Stwart the undersigned, being duly sworn, do depose and say:

- 1. I am over the age of eighteen and believe in the obligations of an oath.
- 2. A true and accurate copy of my pre-filed testimony for use before the Connecticut Siting Council attached hereto as Exhibit A,
- 3. I am the author of the attached pre-filed testimony and believe the facts contained therein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

FURTHER the deponent sayeth not.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 th day of March, 2011.

Edward Franklin Commissioner of the Superior Court  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: 1/7/13  
JP. 1/7/13

# TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Town Hall · P.O. Box 216 · Bridgewater, CT 06752

WILLIAM T. STUART  
FIRST SELECTMAN

TEL: 860-354-5250  
FAX: 860-350-5944

As the First Selectman for Bridgewater for the past 27 years, I have done my best to lead the effort to keep the open, rural character of the Town. In these times when farmland and open spaces are diminishing by the day, I feel we have fought hard along with the Land Trusts and Land Conservation organizations to make Bridgewater a town that remains committed to its open spaces. Bridgewater is well known for its bucolic nature, scenic vistas and open farmlands. It is one of the key features that give this town its identity. In fact, residents with properties with certain vistas are paying a "view tax". This clearly puts a monetary value on our unspoiled views. I believe that many residents have been drawn to this town because of this very nature.

It would be fair to say that if I had my preference, I would not want any cell towers erected in Bridgewater but I understand the need for cell coverage and expect that these towers will be built someday, somewhere. If these towers are in fact being erected for the benefit of Bridgewater residents, which now numbers only 1725 in the last census, it is clearly overkill to erect two towers within the Town limits for this small a population. It is clear that these towers are also meant to serve the drive-through traffic from neighboring towns which should be noted has been decreasing since the opening of the Route 7 bypass around Brookfield serving New Milford. As well, the Dingle Brook tower in Newtown is now providing good coverage for Southern Bridgewater. I do not believe that this is being taken into consideration when reviewing the necessity of the Wewaka Brook tower.

In September, 2010, the residents of Bridgewater voted to allocate significant funds from a tight budget to address the issue of the proposed Wewaka Brook tower regarding our rights and obligations, I feel this shows our very strong commitment to doing everything we can to minimize the negative impact of this and other towers. The residents of Bridgewater are committed to minimizing their views of these towers knowing that they are not temporary, but instead will forever change their quality of life and the strong emotional ties they have to its rural qualities.

It should also be known, that we are now facing the daunting task of dealing with two cell towers applications. We are a small town with a small staff and it is extremely difficult for us to constructively present our views and our arguments for minimizing their impact on our town given our minimal resources and time. We would have certainly preferred to have a stronger voice in the locations and size of these towers if they must in fact be erected at all.

Our elected officials of the last 27 years have strived to preserve this country atmosphere that we enjoy. This is the first time that control has been removed from the people who live here. I am asking the council that if it deems that these towers must be built, which we do not prefer, that they be erected in a manner that greatly minimizes their visual intrusiveness and the negative

impact on property values. The towers should be as low as possible and use technology that would narrow their profile or camouflage their appearance. These towers will be a very stark contrast to their surrounding vistas, which at this time are only trees and sky.

William T. Stuart  
First Selectman