

Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

October 21, 2011

Re: Docket /Petition No. 422

Dear Connecticut Siting Council,

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is submitting this letter in response to the cell tower application for 655 Bassett Road in Watertown. CFPA has a mission of protecting forests, parks, walking trails and open spaces for future generations by connecting people to the land. One of the primary ways we do this is through maintaining the 825-mile long Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System, a portion of which would be affected by this cell tower proposal.

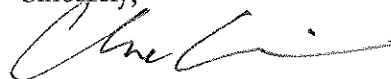
The Mattatuck Trail is a 36-mile footpath that traverses nine towns, beginning in Wolcott and stretching to Mohawk Mountain in Cornwall. This trail follows the western ridges of the Waterbury Reservoirs often with breath-taking views. Specifically the Mattatuck Trail travels the length of Wigwam Reservoir and offers recreational access to this scenic and naturally diverse area. Not only does CFPA feel that the locating of this cell tower would negatively impact the local residents and businesses, but will additionally impact the viewshed that hikers on the Mattatuck Trail have enjoyed for years.

The entire Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System, which includes the Mattatuck Trail, was designated as an official Connecticut State Greenway by the Connecticut Greenways Council in 2001. State designated greenways provide access to the outdoors, connect trails and open space, protect historic and natural resources and preserve scenic landscapes. We ask that the Mattatuck Trail's much-celebrated Greenway status be considered and respected as the siting for this tower is reviewed.

We hope the Siting Council will carefully and thoroughly explore the impacts that this telecommunications tower will have on the local community, natural resources, local business and the scenic quality that make the area around the Waterbury Reservoirs such a beautiful and unique place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Clare Cain
Trail Stewardship Director