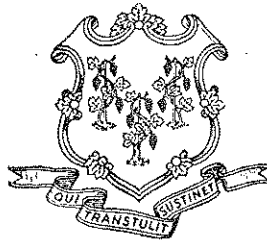


**SENATOR GAYLE SLOSSBERG**

Legislative Office Building  
Room 2000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Toll-free 1-800-842-1420  
Tel. (860) 240-0482  
Home (203) 878-6412



**State of Connecticut**

**SENATE**

*Fourteenth District*

*Chair*  
Human Services  
  
*Vice Chair*  
Public Health  
Veterans' Affairs

**Connecticut Siting Council**

Re: Docket No. 448

August 11, 2014

Dear Members of the Siting Council:

On behalf of the public official interveners (Senator Gayle Slossberg, State Representative Paul Davis, State Representative Themis Klarides, and State Representative James Mahoney), I am writing to respectfully request that the Siting Council consider two alternate locations to the proposed cell tower at 831 Derby-Milford Road, Orange CT.

The first suggested alternate location is Mount St. Peter's Cemetery, which is located at 219 New Haven Ave, Derby, Connecticut, not far from the location proposed by the applicant. The cemetery is a more isolated piece of property, more than one quarter of a mile from any residential homes. The Executive Director of the Catholic Cemeteries Association, which owns the subject property, has confirmed in writing an interest to determine the feasibility of placing the proposed cell tower on that property. The Siting Council should consider whether this alternate site is a feasible location rather than placing a cell tower less than one quarter of a mile from a neighborhood full of children where there will be significant adverse effects to the scenic quality of the neighborhood as well as public health and safety.

The second suggested alternate location is Tucker's Ravine, also known as Housatonic Overlook, which is owned by the Town of Orange. Although the Tucker's Ravine property was purchased pursuant to a state grant for open space, Connecticut General Statutes section 7-131i specifically authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environment to allow land acquired by a municipality for which such a state grant was awarded, to use that land for purposes other than recreation or conservation. The statutory process requires additional land be purchased or a payment of the fair market value of the land being converted. Under either scenario, should the Connecticut Siting Council determine

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that this alternate site is feasible, the undersigned state elected officials would initiate the appropriate proceedings to facilitate the conversion process. We make this request as a result of conversations with the Department of Energy and Environment.

It has become apparent that Verizon Wireless has failed to look into the viability of these alternate locations. The public official interveners respectfully request that the Connecticut Siting Council order Verizon Wireless to immediately pursue looking into the feasibility and availability of these alternate locations for the subject cell tower. In the subject application, Verizon Wireless admits that there is no immediate need for the subject cell tower. Therefore, the subject application should be continued in order to allow Verizon Wireless to properly explore the feasibility and availability of these potential alternate locations. Given the proximity of the proposed tower to the residences in Orange, we believe that the Siting Council must consider whether there are other reasonably feasible alternatives rather than subjecting families to the potential negative effects of the proposed location.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gayle S. Slossberg, State Senator  
On behalf of State Representatives Klarides, Davis and Maroney