

FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

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April 20, 2015

Ms. Melanie Bachman
Acting Director/Staff Attorney
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 458 – Florida Tower Partners LLC application to permit construction of a telecommunications facility at Bethel Tax Assessor's Map 65, Block 57, Lot 122, 62-64 Codfish Hill Road, Bethel, CT.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

My office has become aware of a proposal by North Atlantic Tower Corporation to construct a new cellular communication facility including a 150ft. to 175 ft. monopole and associated ground equipment facilities on property located at 62-44 Codfish Hill Road in Bethel. In the past several weeks I have received a substantial amount of feedback from impacted neighbors and the public at large who are firmly opposed to locating a new cell tower and ground facilities on the subject property.

As First Selectman, I support the neighbors and urge the Siting Council to deny the application for this new location and to request North Atlantic Tower Corporation to search for alternative locations that are proximate to the need area. This portion of Bethel is one of the most historic sections of town with a unique scenic quality where a glimpse of Bethel's farming past has been preserved with much effort by the town and citizens alike. A cell tower facility of the size and location proposed would be in direct conflict with maintaining and enhancing the character of the Codfish Hill neighborhood.

We do not believe the applicant has justified the need for a large, highly visible tower in this area. At this time, our public safety dispatch operation is not reporting significant problems with dropped 9-1-1 calls from the service area in question. Also, we are not convinced that the applicant has fully researched alternate locations that might expand their coverage area but would be less visible to residential areas.

For aforementioned reasons, we remain opposed to the permitting of any communications facility on the property noted above. We believe it is possible to find sites that are technically functional, yet could be placed in locations that would be less visible than the property currently under review. We are also aware that there are creative new technologies available today that camouflage towers to allow them to blend with the local environment. As the area in question is a historic district, this factor should also be given careful consideration. My office is very willing to provide whatever assistance may be required to help the applicant find an alternate location that is more acceptable to the Codfish Hill neighborhood.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Knickerbocker

First Selectman

c: Steve Palmer