



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 28, 2018

The Honorable Maureen A. Nicholson
First Selectman
Town of Pomfret
Town Hall
5 Haven Road
Pomfret Center, CT 06259

RE: **DOCKET NO. 484** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility at one of three locations at 72 Ragged Hill Road, Pomfret, Connecticut.

Dear First Selectman Nicholson:

The Connecticut Siting Council is in receipt of your recent correspondence dated September 25, 2018 concerning above-referenced Docket No. 484. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

Before reaching a final decision on an application, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record. The record is developed by the Council, the applicant, parties and intervenors in the proceeding, and members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

The Council developed a deliberate schedule to provide all persons an opportunity to participate. This schedule included a public hearing on September 18, 2018 in Pomfret for the convenience of the public.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at <http://www.ct.gov/csc> under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

c: Council Members



CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

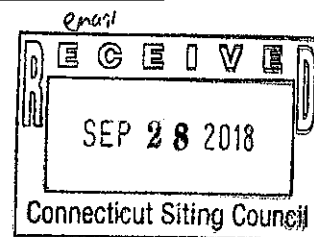
TOWN OF POMFRET

To: Connecticut Siting Council

From: Maureen Nicholson First Selectman, Town of Pomfret

Date: September 25, 2018

Subject: Testimony re: Docket No. 484, Ragged Hill Road, Pomfret, CT



Greetings,

As First Selectman in Pomfret I have the opportunity to drive all of our roads in town frequently. I am also a Verizon customer. I know exactly where I will drop a call and how long it will take before I have service again. Thirty seconds, a minute, max.

Commuters who drive through Pomfret are here for a few minutes, neighbors of the proposed Taft Pond cell tower are here every day, some 24/7. The commuters passing through Pomfret may complain about coverage, but, like Mark Twain said about New England weather "wait a few minutes" and you will have cell service once again. And isn't it wonderful to have some down time and not be on the phone while driving?

Not many years ago, Pomfret bonded for \$5 million dollars to preserve open space. This was an initiative supported by a vast majority of the town's people. We value our rural, historic vistas, rolling hills, valleys and open space. We are a Farm Friendly community. More than 1,400 acres were preserved and will remain open space for generations to come. We have state, private, municipal, land trust, conservation easement, and agricultural PDR open spaces. Some open to the public, some just open to the eye. But, it makes for a beautiful community to live in and ...drive through. We made a choice to pay more for our open space and bucolic vistas. Perhaps Celco could give up some profits to support our conservancy efforts.

Our residents would gladly trade a brief interruption in cell service for a lifetime of beautiful views. We all want the latest technology and... to the degree we need it, we have it. The residents most impacted by the proposed cell tower are the ones that would benefit the most and they want it the least. Many folks have moved out here to escape the never ending eye sores of the urban concrete jungle, high rise buildings, parking lots, the tangle of overhead wires and cell towers. Pomfret is a breath of fresh air and a relief from the hustle and bustle of the fast lane. We want to keep it that way.

TOWN OF POMFRET

There are 10 Cellco cell towers within nine miles of the proposed site, doesn't that provide enough coverage? We have three cell towers in town and our service is pretty good, and pretty good is good enough.

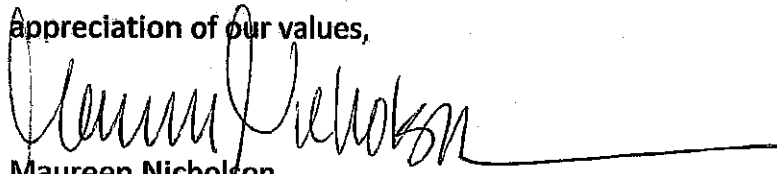
Whether the threat of constant radiation is perceived or real, buyers will be less likely to purchase homes near cell towers. That is real. A New York Times article interviewed realtors who determined a cell tower lowers property values by 4 to 10%. Property values, for Pomfret residents who want the tower least, will suffer most.

Land lines are becoming obsolete. One day, cell towers may be obsolete as well. Technology may provide for device to device cell coverage (D2D technology) making cell towers a thing of the past. Perhaps we really don't need this tower here, now.

Leaf peepers come to this area from all over the world to enjoy our beautiful views and fall colors. We don't have a lot to offer in Pomfret in terms of economic development, what we have to offer is non-development. Pomfret lies within a National Heritage Corridor called the Last Green Valley. From a satellite, this area is the only dark sky within the urban sprawl between Boston and Washington, DC. We call this area the Quiet Corner. Visitors come here and residents move here or stay here because of what we have, not because of what we don't have. We want to protect what we have that makes our town special and different and home.

I oppose another cell tower in Pomfret as overload and unnecessary. Let's not build it unless we have more compelling reasons than just offering commuters cell coverage on their way through our town and more profits to a company passing through. No one's life is at risk if this tower isn't built. If the residents of Pomfret wanted it, felt it would improve their quality of life, enhance our community, then I would agree, let's build it. Until that day, I am a firm "No, please."

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our community and appreciation of our values,


Maureen Nicholson
First Selectman