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CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

January 5, 2004

Pamela B. Katz, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

Dear Chairman Katz:

Legislators, both Senators and Representatives, representing the 24 towns that are included, directly or indirectly, in the application for Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating proposed transmission upgrade, write to you today about Docket 272.

This docket raises great concern among our collective constituencies. As legislators we must balance the concerns of those we represent with that of the rest of the state. Just as your task is to find a balance between public need and environmental impact, we must find a way to serve our public as well as to protect them.

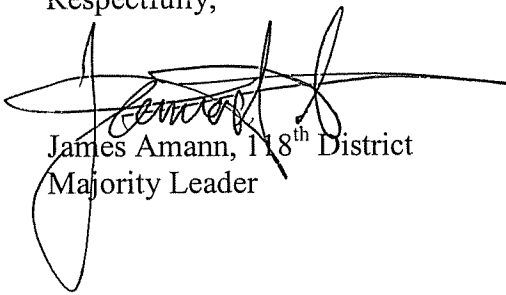
We have each heard loud and clear from those we represent. We know what they want and demand. We also know there is no perfect solution. Our focus is on alternatives. While the application for Docket 272 does present alternatives, as it is required to do, our view is that both the description and the analysis of alternatives is too limited. It is up to you to pursue this matter more thoroughly, and demand that alternatives be made part of the solution.

Docket 272, as the application unequivocally states, "is by far the largest transmission project that has ever been proposed in Connecticut..." (Vol. 1, ES-7). Thus, your decision will be extremely important to the future of our state, and the process you follow in arriving at your decision will be equally so. That process must move forward in a timely manner, and be pursued with a great deal of wisdom. Many of our colleagues have filed as intervenors or parties, but know that each of us will be following this docket, from the public hearings, to the evidentiary hearings, to the D&M phase. Also, we will be encouraging our constituents to participate as fully as possible in the proceedings. It is our expectation that their participation and expressed concerns will be reflected in your most thoughtful deliberations.

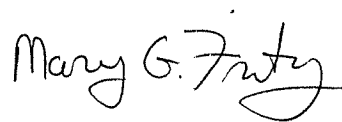
At this time, the power of siting rests in your hands. Your decision needs to be rendered before such time as FERC could step in. While we will fight to keep authority over transmission sitings within the jurisdiction of the state of Connecticut, it is our expectation that you will also fight—fight to find balance in your adjudication of Docket 272—fight to include alternatives in your decision, so that electrical power can be provided for southwestern Connecticut without bringing negative impacts in perpetuity to the citizens we are all sworn to serve.

To this purpose we have formed a working group to address this issue and the workings of the Siting Council. We very strongly believe that in the placement of this expansion, that the greatest good shall have the least effect on the greatest number of people with the least expansion overhead.

Respectfully,



James Amann, 118th District
Majority Leader



Mary G. Fritz 90th District
Deputy Speaker