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CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

June 23, 2004

Ms. Pamela B. Katz  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Docket No: 272 – Middletown – Norwalk 345kV Transmission Line

Dear Ms. Katz:

The undersigned legislators applaud the Siting Council, ("Council"), for its wisdom in hiring an underground transmission expert to make an objective finding as to the maximum feasible length of underground constructing of the transmission lines. It is our understanding that this expert will be acting on behalf of the Council to aid the Council in working to determine the reliability of the undergrounding of the 345kV electric cables. The hiring of this expert is an effort by the Council to evaluate the claims by Northeast Utilities that underground transmission wires could only be underground for a short distance while some believed, based upon European Countries, longer distances could be achieved without risking reliability. Additionally, the signatories understand that the expert hired by the Council would have the knowledge and skill to review the Northeast Utilities plans as well as the ability to investigate the Northeast Utilities plans for maximizing the placing of the transmission lines underground.

We have become concerned by recent reports that the expert may only be reviewing research and studies supplied by Northeast Utilities. And, further that the expert will not be given the authority to conduct his/her own independent testing and investigation in order to make the required evaluation.

Given the recent pre-filed testimony of ISO, our concerns have grown. ISO reviewed two studies sanctioned by Northeast Utilities regarding the burying of underground power lines. As you are aware, based upon this report information supplied by Northeast Utilities, ISO came to the conclusion that the power lines cannot be buried for a substantial distance, which conclusion directly conflicts with the Applicant's own testimony on the subject. As a result, ISO's conclusion as to the amount of transmission lines that can be buried raises more issues than it solves. ISO's conclusions are based upon certain assumptions and certain findings all of which were contained in a report furnished by Northeast Utilities. It is our hope that the Council's expert will be given both the time and resources to conduct a full and meaningful investigation into the feasibility of maximizing the burying of the transmission cables. The above is critical to ensure fairness and balance to this process.

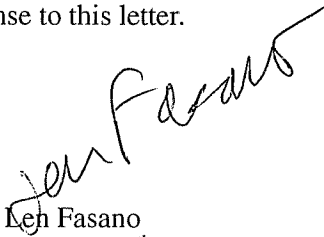
Obviously, this issue is an utmost concern to our constituents. Public policy would require an objective expert who do more than merely review studies furnished by the applicant. The outcome of such a review is almost a foregone conclusion and would substantially undermine confidence in the process being applied to this application. We hope that your independent expert will obtain the most unbiased empirical data, which would enable the expert to take a definitive and truly independent position on issue of reliability of buried transmission cables.

Therefore, the undersigned bipartisan legislative group requests this Council to authorize the expert to perform any test, any research and/or to take whatever steps are necessary to accomplish the goal of advising the Council as to the maximum length or area the power lines can be buried. If there is a budget issue concerning the expert, please let us know.

We look forward to the Council's response to this letter.



Win Smith, Jr.  
Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District



Len Fasano  
Senator, 34<sup>th</sup> District



William Aniskovich  
Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District



Joe Crisco, Jr.  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District



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Representative, 114<sup>th</sup> District



Jim Amann  
Representative, 117<sup>th</sup> District



Al Adinolfi  
Representative, 103<sup>rd</sup> District