



M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

December 31, 2009

BY FAX AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Christopher B. Fisher  
Cuddy & Feder, LLP  
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
White Plains, New York 10601

Re: Message Center Management ("MCM") Tower Facility Proposals for Easton, CT

Dear Attorney Fisher:

I understand that Message Center Management ("MCM") intends on submitting an application with the Connecticut Siting Council for a proposed cell tower and facility site in the Town of Easton, Connecticut. I also understand that MCM is contemplating three site alternatives, two at Snow's Dairy Farm and a third on town-owned land that has been formally recommended to you and MCM by the Town of Easton.

Easton is replete with unspoiled, traditional New England vistas. It has no commercial development and is thus economically reliant upon its rural, agricultural and historic appeal to tourists. In a perfect world, this beautiful town would remain unscathed by the construction of additional tall telecommunication structures approaching 200 feet amidst its plethora of historic farms and orchards. However, in 2010, the public has also come to desire, indeed expect, instant wireless communication. With that reliance comes the understandable need for towers.

With the foregoing in mind, I have several concerns regarding your proposed application for both of the Snow's Dairy Farm sites that I bring to your attention even as I suggest that the alternative site proposed by the Town of Easton is the lesser of evils.

The two locations for a proposed tower at the nearly 100-year-old Snow's Dairy Farm would reside in the midst of a largely residential community, on one of Easton's main arteries, and in full sight of all tourists. In either location at Snow's Dairy Farm, the tower would eclipse Easton's tourist charm - farms, pick-your-own orchards, herb farms, and Christmas tree farms. It would loom over the annual fireman's carnival, an annual community event held for more than seventy years. In either spot, the tower would stand

with minimal cover on farmland along Sport Hill Road. It would be nothing short of an eyesore on this New England treasure.

Abutting Snow's Dairy Farm to one side is Silverman's Farm which annually welcomes between 150,000 and 200,000 people for apple-picking, Christmas trees sales, and a children's petting zoo. A small family-run organic farm lies to the other side of Snow's Dairy Farm. The historic rural and agrarian ambiance is essential for both farms' tourist appeal and success. Further, Snow's Dairy Farm is located on Easton's main artery, Sport Hill Road. Visitors who buy farm products do so by traversing this road. A tower located in this spot would have a significantly adverse effect on Easton's historic, aesthetic environment and, therefore, also on tourism and Easton's economy.

In contrast, the alternative Easton location would have a less significant impact. Knowing the potentially devastating effects of the construction of a cell tower at Snow's Dairy Farm, the Town of Easton has proposed another parcel. This undeveloped portion of land owned by the Town of Easton on South Park Avenue by Veteran's Field presents a palatable alternative. This site is less visually offensive because of its distance from Sport Hill Road. In addition, the cell tower, while it would stand taller, would be constructed amidst, and perhaps masked by, a tall stand of trees. The Town owned parcel is located across from land owned by the Aquarion Water Company and while there is a residential impact, it is much less significant than that of the Snow's Dairy Farm proposed sites. I understand there are some minor disadvantages to this site, such as the need for a taller structure; however, these are balanced by the diminished impact upon this historic landscape.

I fully understand the need for telecommunications towers in our State, particularly in our more rural areas where cell phone coverage can be spotty; but those decisions cannot be made in a vacuum, without fully considering the effects on the historic landscape.

The Siting Council must consider the historic and unspoiled landscape of this scenic section of our State in addition to the Town's economic reliance upon that landscape. I urge the Siting Council to consider whether a site is indeed necessary and, if so, to consider the alternate site for the telecommunications facilities; one that both will meet the wireless service needs of the residents in the Easton area and will have a less significant impact on their landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "M.", "Jodi", and "Rell" being capitalized and prominent.

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

cc: Maria Scotti, MCM  
Tom Herrmann, First Selectman  
Daniel Caruso, Chairman, Siting Council