

**From:** BNikkiAdler@aol.com [mailto:bnikkiadler@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:20 PM  
**To:** Katie Pickens  
**Subject:** remarks for committee's web pages

Dear Ms. Pickens:

I was unable to get to the hearing by 5:30 pm, so I decided to submit the following letter to the committees for publication. (I made corrections and re-formatted.) Thank you for responding to me today.

***Barbara Sirotkin, Esq.***

***PO Box 679***

***Quechee, VT 05059***

***March 24, 2015***

Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 has ostensibly given so much power to the Public Service Board (PSB) and to the telecommunications companies, that the individual Vermont landowners who used to rely on Act 250 to ensure that their properties maintained their aesthetic integrity and historic value have been rendered powerless. Their protests are being ignored by the rubber-stamping approval of the cell towers by PSB, no matter how legitimate the arguments may be.

The cell tower on Fairbanks Turn in a residential community of Quechee was recently approved without the community's opportunity to challenge evidence presented by VTEL at a hearing. The residents submitted letters of protest to PSB, pointing out the effect this 90-foot tower would have on property values and informing the Board of the existence of historic sites in the area. They also seriously questioned the need for yet another cell tower in the area in view of the fact that Quechee already had full service.

The Hartford Select Board had specifically recommended denial of VTEL's application, and the Hartford Planning Commission had rejected the application. Nevertheless, the PSB granted the application and further denied the Quechee residents a hearing.

Silencing the public could not have been the intent of the legislature. But at this time, public concerns are being ignored, and the power of Act 250 is being eroded. Vermont is losing the beauty that Act 250 was designed to protect and the citizens of Vermont are losing its protection.