



House Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Telecommunications Bills – H. 50, 51
February 9, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H. 50 the legislation to once again extend the sunset for the Public Service Board approving applications for telecommunications facilities. I would also like to comment on H. 51.

In 2007, Act 79 was passed. That legislation added Section 248a and also established that effective July 1, 2010, no new applications for Certificates of Public Good (CPG) (for telecommunications facilities) may be considered by the Public Service Board. Prior to 2007, many municipalities had ordinances or bylaws in place regulating permits for telecommunications facilities.

In 2010, Act 54 extended that deadline to 2011.

In 2011, Act 53 extended the deadline to 2014.

In 2014, Act 199 extended the deadline to 2017.

In Seven Days this week Senator Kitchel was quoted as saying, "We have a long history of dealing with sunsets." That is certainly true in this case. We believe that it is time to make good on the promise in 2007 and sunset the Public Service Board authority of telecommunications permitting applications.

If the committee does pass H. 50, we urge you to also pass H. 51, providing notice to abutting property owners, possibly following the Act 250 protocol for multiple adjoining landowners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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