

Dear Committee Members,

I understand the bill to extend 248a is to be voted out very soon. Please protect the rights for citizen and town boards to have input in situations where the PUC is discussing sitings and making decisions. Tower companies should not be able to override town boards and planning commissions. And neither should the PUC be able to override.

I went through the Warren siting debacle and felt that there was very little deference to citizen or town opinions and decisions. It was frustrating. We concerned citizens did not feel heard in any significant way. The PUC seemed eager to charge ahead with approving Verizon's request.

The siting plan was totally inappropriate being very near the airport and near families with children, not to mention completely out of character with the rural residential character of the neighborhood. There were other options but Verizon supported by the PUC did not feel any need to even meet with the town or consider other options. The balloon test was done basically in secret. The tower was to be 90 feet tall! The local farmer regretted that he'd signed off with Verizon. Luckily through research it was found that Verizon could not take control because there was a long-standing prior owner with standing/rights who would not sign off with Verizon.

Being a nurse and having studied the health issues I remain very concerned. The process was tone-deaf to the aesthetic and health issues. Your job as legislators is to protect the health and safety of Vermonters so please think hard when you are approaching the mark-up.

Thank you for considering my concerns,
Sincerely, Connie Colman, RN, MEd, Warren