

We are pleased to report that our proposed bill has been drafted and will be the subject of a public hearing. As expected, we were not given much advanced notice, and the bill is scheduled for its Public Hearing before the Energy & Technology Committee on Thursday, March 18th at 2pm in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building (adjacent to the State Capitol). Directions can be found here:
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/olm/directions2.asp>

The Bill is SB 461 and a link to the bill is found here:
http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=461&which_year=2010

Please note that our bill was merged with another bill which deals with the siting of telecommunication towers, which are also regulated by the Siting Council. The portion of the bill which is specific to our issues can be found in lines 206-208, which calls for allowing the Siting Council to take into account issues relating to public safety when considering the appropriateness of permitting the siting of a power plant. Current law only allows the Siting Council to take into account whether the proposal would have a "substantial adverse environmental impact" on the surrounding area. We had hoped the Committee Co-Chairs would include all the language we were seeking (e.g. allowing local boards to have a greater say), but keep in mind that this is simply a "first draft", so to speak, and most all bills go through numerous language changes and tweaks as they make their way through the process. That could certainly happen with this bill as well.

We welcome anyone who wishes to testify to do so, as will each of us. The vast majority have no doubt never been involved in the public hearing process, so you may feel ill-equipped to testify. Keep in mind there are many people every day who have never been to Hartford before and yet testify on bills and issues they care about. You do not need to be an expert, or a skilled orator, to speak your piece. That being said, it might be helpful to have as many folks as possible up there, even those who may not wish to testify but rather are looking to support the cause. I would expect one or several representatives of DFC will be present, including their lobbyist, and having them see that neighbors and residents are willing to take a day off and spend it in Hartford to fight this end of the battle will be a pretty powerful statement.

A link which provides more information of the public hearing and testimony process can be found here
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/content/yourvoice.asp>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. T.R. Rowe & Tony Hwang can be reached via our mutual legislative aide, Jake Bookwalter at 1 800-842-1423 and Anthony Musto can be reached via his legislative aide, Robert Kelly at 800-842-1420.

As always, thank you for your concern and help!
Sincerely,

T.R. Rowe
Tony Hwang &
Anthony Musto