

Good morning members of Conservation Board,

My name is Maria Ivezic, and I am a mother raising my family right here in this community. I am here tonight to speak in strong opposition to the proposed cell tower at 62 Granite Springs Road.

I want to be very clear: this is not just about a tower. This is about the protection of our children, our water, our wildlife, and the land that makes this town a safe and healthy place to raise a family.

The proposal before you calls for disturbing more than 28,000 square feet of land, including over 15,000 square feet within a regulated wetlands buffer. That alone should stop this project in its tracks. Our Town Code does not allow this level of disturbance under an administrative permit, and yet here we are, being asked to accept it anyway.

As a mother, I am deeply alarmed that this project would be built on land that is part of the Croton watershed and drains directly into Sparkle Lake: a place where families swim, where children fish, where we teach them to love and respect nature. This land does not just belong to a developer. It belongs to everyone downstream who relies on clean water, including our children.

The plan also calls for removing more than 80 mature trees. Those trees are not decorations. They protect water quality, prevent flooding, filter pollution, and support wildlife. Once they are cut down, they are gone forever. Dear board, I have to ask: what are we sacrificing, and for whose convenience?

Anyone who lives in this area knows this wetland is alive. We see turtles crossing the

road. We see birds nesting. We see foxes, deer, hawks, and eagles. I've watched my children stop in their tracks just to observe the wildlife here. This project would replace that living ecosystem with construction traffic, access roads, and permanent disturbance.

We have already seen how fragile this land is. When a pipe collapsed nearby, turtles were displaced, nesting patterns were disrupted, and animals ended up stranded on the road. That was from one small change. This proposal would permanently disrupt over 28,000 square feet. The impact would be devastating.

Your own Conservation Board guidance says wetlands buffers are meant for passive use and native vegetation: not for roads, not for heavy equipment, and certainly not for long-term industrial infrastructure. This site is simply not suitable for this type of development.

As a mother, I worry not only about wildlife, but about water quality, flooding, and the long-term consequences of ignoring environmental protections. I worry about what message we send our children when we tell them wetlands matter, until they are inconvenient.

I urge you to walk this site during the growing season. See it as it truly is. I also urge you to require the developer to fund an independent wildlife study chosen by the Conservation Board, not by the applicant. Surely, once you visit the site, you will realize that this parcel is not a "useless piece of land" as Mr. Robert Gaudioso, Homeland Tower's attorney, referred to it as.

And most importantly, I urge the Conservation Board to do what it was created to do: protect our natural resources. Deny the wetlands, stormwater, and tree permits for this project.

Please do not trade away our children's environment for a tower that does not belong in a residential neighborhood or a protected watershed. Once this land is damaged, there is no going back.

Thank you for listening and for remembering who you are protecting.

Sincerely,

Maria Ivezic