

November 3, 2025

Re: Opposition of Sale of Borough Lot on Haugen Drive for Cell Tower Development

To the Mayor and Assembly Members

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed sale of the Borough-owned lot on Haugen Drive for the purpose of the construction of an additional cell tower. The area in question is located within a mixed residential and business district, and the placement of new telecom infrastructure at this site would significantly impact this multi-use area.

My husband and I own a commercial property and operate business activities in this area, and we are directly invested in the long-term stability, usability, and value of the surrounding properties. The proposed tower location would introduce industrial-scale infrastructure in a setting that serves as homes to families, small businesses, and community services. This area functions as an important gateway corridor for Petersburg, and decisions made here will shape how our town looks and feels.

I fully recognize the importance of reliable communications and understand that infrastructure requires maintenance and development. However, the issue at hand is not whether Petersburg should have telecommunications capacity-it is where such structures are placed. The Haugen Drive lot is not an appropriate location for a tower of this scale. There are already multiple service providers available to this commercial and residential neighborhood that meet service needs without disrupting community character.

Approving this sale would set a precedent for future industrial encroachment to residential zones. As a member of our community, I ask that the Assembly consider the irreversible nature of this decision and the importance of preserving the qualities that make Petersburg a healthy and connected community.

I respectfully request that the Borough Assembly deny the sale of the Haugen Drive lot for this purpose.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gwynne Short".

Gwynne Short