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RE: Case Number 25-0316-AN

Submitted Electronically

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

After attending the Tinmouth Select Board and Planning Commission Special Joint Meeting on June 19, 2025, we are opposed to the Telecommunication Tower as it is currently proposed by Industrial Tower and Wireless, LLC (ITW). Below are the three main concerns that we wish to share with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) as they review the ITW proposal to determine issuance of a Certificate of Public Good. We want to thank the PUC for the opportunity to submit our Public Comment.

- Public Safety –
 - The ITW team shared that local Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Fire may place equipment to the tower at no cost, but the equipment and maintenance costs would belong to the town. We are not aware if the town has evaluated for potential benefits to radio communications, budgeted for the cost of the equipment and maintenance, or if the upgrade is currently included in the Town Plan. If this has not been done, it would be helpful to have additional time to scope the project and understand feasibility and impact.
 - The Rutland County Sheriff was present and asked the ITW team directly about the potential benefit for local Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire Department radio communications. ITW confirmed that there would be a repeater on the proposed tower that can transmit to other ITW towers. ITW stated that transmission amongst the ITW towers would improve. The Sheriff confirmed with the ITW team that the current towers used by Rutland County services are not included in the ITW network. It is unclear that there would be any benefit to the Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire radio communications that support the Town of Tinmouth.
 - Community members agree that cell phone service could be improved to cover gaps in current coverage throughout the town. We live in an area with zero cell phone service and would welcome improvements to cell phone service in our area. The ITW team shared that the tower has the potential to lease to cell phone carriers, but confirmed that there are no carriers currently committed to adding their services to the tower. We have concerns that although there is the potential for cell phone carriers to utilize the tower in the future, there is no guarantee prior to the proposed tower's construction.
- Health & Safety –
 - In response to community members concerns about impact to the health of residents within 1500 feet of the proposed tower, the ITW team stated that the tower would be licensed and have to emit radio frequencies (RF) in accordance with the Federal

Communications Commission (FCC) Regulations. They cautioned that there was misinformation online about RF, but were unable to cite any evidence-based scientific sources or standards to speak to how RF guidelines for health safety inform the current FCC regulations.

- The ITW team assured the community members that there would be an annual tower certification process that includes testing for RF, but they were unclear if this was done by their internal team or an independent third party. They did not provide a proposed mitigation plan if the testing resulted in emission levels of outside of the FCC regulations. It would be helpful to have more information and reassurance for the residents with homes that are as close as 500 feet to the proposed tower site.
 - Community members shared additional concerns that the current FCC regulations are past due for review and that the historical methodology was not inclusive of current RF emissions. It is possible that more recent data may inform regulatory changes to protect the public health of communities. The ITW team was unable to address the concerns about the timeliness of the FCC review, methodology, and standards.
- Property Values –
 - The height of the proposed tower exceeds the current Town Plan and Zoning Bylaws. It is our understanding that these are the rules and regulations put into place to preserve the beauty and culture of the Town of Tinmouth while the community allows ongoing growth and development throughout the town. We do not recall any discussion about how ITW plans to address the limitations of the current Town Plan and Zoning Bylaws.
 - There was brief mention that additional towers may be needed to augment this tower. It would be helpful to better understand how the tower will work as an independent structure as well as what the process would be for additional tower proposals in the future. Concerns that one tower in the town may soon lead to two or three towers in the near future were not addressed.
 - It was shared that there are four homes within 1500 feet of the proposed tower location. We anticipate that the tower will impact the property value of those homes, causing direct economic harm to members of the Tinmouth community. The ITW team confirmed that there is no provision to compensate land owners for any property value decrease that will result from the tower installation.

As proud residents and community members of Tinmouth, we are happy to engage in partnerships with entities that will support the growth and development of our town. This includes opportunities to update the telecommunication infrastructure that will provide enhanced access to cellular services and radio communication. We did not find that ITW was able to approach the town with a collaborative proposal or articulate a clear business case that this Telecommunication Tower would offer any benefit to the Tinmouth community. In fact, the only impacts that we clearly understand at this time are potential public health risks and economic harm to valued members of the Tinmouth community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our public comment for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher and Amy Martone