

WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

Chairman Coleman
Planning & Development Committee

**RE: HB 5286 - AN ACT INCREASING PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES
TO MUNICIPALITIES**

February 25, 2008

Dear Chairman Coleman,

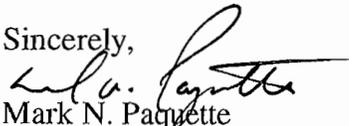
The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing **in support** of increasing PILOT Funding for our area towns.

The 9 towns in the Windham Region received PILOT funds for a total of \$10.9 million in FY 07- 08, **4% less** than they received the previous year. Yet the 2 major Universities in our region continued to grow both in physical structure and enrollment. This increased growth has significant impact on all our local communities, as current resources are stretched to meet demand. The fair and equitable solution to this inequity is to increase the payments in lieu of taxes to our municipalities.

The proposed increase in state funding for this important activity will greatly lessen the burden on municipalities at a time when their budgets are already under pressure.

Thank you for your consideration in moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,



Mark N. Paquette

Executive Director

WINCOG

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cc: WINCOG Board of Directors