



Town of Andover, Connecticut

Office of the First Selectman
Town Office Building
17 School Road
Andover, CT 06232
Phone 860-742-7305
Fax 860-742-7535

Comments regarding
RESIDENT STATE TROOPER PROGRAM
INCREASING CHARGES TO TOWNS
SECTION 5 – HB6363

Honorable State Representatives,

I am sure that Section 5 of HB 6363, that would increase the municipal share of resident trooper costs to the towns from the present 70% to 85% beginning 7/1/09 and 100% beginning 7/1/10 will be a **BIG MISTAKE** for the State. This again is an expense to be incurred by local municipalities with no prior notification to the towns.

As the First Selectman of Andover, I am aware of the importance of this program for all the small towns that do not have a police force. Our Resident Trooper is a factor in many ways not just in solving crimes and traffic control. His programs for the school children, DARE and BIKE SAFETY among others, are an important part of education for all children and parents alike.

Every budget hearing we have residents that try to eliminate this program as too expensive for the Town. They claim the State Police would still have to cover Andover even if the Resident State Trooper contract is not renewed. While this is true I am sure the service would not be the same. With this proposed cost increase the fact is that the town will NO LONGER be able to afford this program.

Is this a saving for the State? Instead of costing the State **30%**, it will cost the State **100%** of the trooper, car and all other related expenses. Add to that the need for more office spaces for these returning troopers. Additional items a town supplies such as fax and copy machines, Radar Guns with annual calibration, phone services and office supplies will now be the total responsibility of State Police budget.

I do not know if other small towns will eliminate this program. I have spoken to some that say it is a good possibility. Some of the larger towns that have more than one Resident State Trooper say they may cut back the number of Troopers.

It seems the Governor is trying to balance the State budget at the expense of Small Town Property owners.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Burbank
First Selectman
Andover