

KAREN A. BIRCK

239 Thunder Lake Road
Wilton, CT 06897

Telephone/FAX: (203) 761-0750
email: birburn@optonline.net

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Statement for the Legislative Hearing on March 23rd that addresses R.B. 6696

I have been a resident of Wilton for almost 18 years. Wilton's town government has been effectively run by volunteers during that time.

Both my husband and I have been active in town government. He has served on the Board of Finance and the Council on Ethics, and currently serves on the Charter Revision Commission and the Wilton Employee Retirement Trust Investment Committee. I currently serve on the Board of Education as its Chair and the Wilton High School Building Committee.

I have reviewed the Statement of Stephen Hudspeth dated March 19, 2009 for the Legislative hearing on March 23rd that addresses Raised Bill 6696. I fully concur with Mr. Hudspeth's Statement and oppose the Raised Bill in its present form for the reasons he gives, but I am glad to see, as he notes, that the Raised Bill contains no financial disclosure requirements.

As to the latter, I oppose a requirement of full financial disclosures by volunteers on the various boards and commissions as it would have a negative impact the town's ability to recruit such volunteers and therefore on the work of town government.

If legislation requiring full financial disclosure were to pass, it is quite likely that we would both resign our current positions and would cease to be actively involved in town government.

Sincerely,
Karen A. Birck