



Testimony Regarding

House Bill 6387

**An Act Concerning the Small Town
Economic Assistance Program**

Made before the

Planning and Development Committee

February 23, 2009

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments **supports** the concept put forth by House Bill 6387, An Act Concerning the Small Town Economic Assistance Program and **urges its favorable consideration.**

The Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) has become one of the most beneficial programs for our towns. This program has enabled a variety of initiatives that towns might otherwise not have the funds to carry out. House Bill 6387 would enable a grouping of towns to gain benefits from STEAP. This change fosters inter-municipal cooperation and regional solutions – both of which we strongly endorse. Additionally, the approach put forth in House Bill 6387 is consistent with the work done by the Smart Growth Work Group.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Should you need additional information, please contact our Executive Director John Filchak.