



WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

Chairman Coleman
Chairman Sharkey
Members of the Planning & Development Committee

March 2, 2009

RE: HB 6389 - AN ACT PROMOTING REGIONALIZATION

Dear Chairman Coleman and Chairman Sharkey, and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

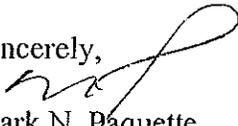
The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing in general support of legislation regarding **Regionalization** as noted in HB 6389.

Although the proposed legislation appears to be the next iteration of the previous Regional Performance Incentive Program, we believe the proposed bill needs some adjustment.

First, the language regarding "more than one million dollars for an application submitted jointly by not less than four municipalities" creates a difficult situation for many of the RPA's. We suggest two municipalities be the threshold, as there can still be significant savings with only two. Second, the lack of planning funds (loss of SGIA funds to RPA's) to undertake these grant applications will result in the smaller municipalities being unable to take advantage of these programs, as they normally rely on the RPA's to assist with the application and administrative process. Third, and we applaud the use of incentives in the grant, but the 10% Town Aid Road incentive still would not bring a municipality to the level of funding it received in the 2008-09 budget. There needs to be more "juice" to these incentives.

Thank you for your consideration in moving this bill forward with our suggested adjustments.

Sincerely,


Mark N. Daquette
Executive Director, WINCOG

cc: WINCOG Board of Directors