



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: Testimony for Smart Growth Legislative Package
HB 6585 - AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM**

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

The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing in support of legislation regarding **Regionalism** as noted in HB 6585.

We support the concept of promoting regional cooperation among towns through voluntary incentive programs whereby (1) towns agree on the location of future economic development and not to compete for new economic development, (2) share in property taxes generated from new economic development, and (3) receive a share of the sales and use tax revenue.

It is important to note that the WINCOG region has undertaken a regional economic development study as part of the legislature's Regional Performance Incentive Program and that this legislation supports that endeavor. We might also suggest that HB 5544 - AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, could be combined into this bill, as the intent is similar.

Further, while we are encouraged by the provision to allow RPA's to access the million dollars available to facilitate multi-municipal agreements pursuant to this act, the current language is very specific to this legislation and would not allow RPA's to conduct the general planning functions previously performed under the now zeroed out SGIA funding from OPM.

Thank you for your consideration in moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Mark N. Paquette
Executive Director, WINCOG

cc: WINCOG Board of Directors