

# 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 6589 - AN ACT CONCERNING LAND USE APPEALS**

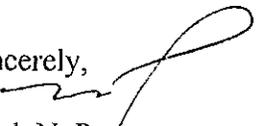
Dear Chairman Coleman and Chairman Sharkey, and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing in support of legislation regarding **Land Use Appeals** as noted in HB 6589.

The proposed legislation to assign all administrative appeals to judges identified by the Chief Court Administrator as having experience in land use matters is a critical piece in the entire smart growth legislative package. The interpretation of not only previous land use legislation, but the newly proposed smart growth legislation by a knowledgeable land use judge can only assist in moving the State of Connecticut forward with its smart growth plan.

Thank you for your consideration in moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

  
Mark N. Paquette  
Executive Director, WINCOG

cc: WINCOG Board of Directors