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February 9, 2009

Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

Re: Bill 388 AN ACT CONCERNING DELAY OF PROPERTY REVALUATION

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Committee

It is my pleasure to present written testimony concerning Proposed Bill No. 388.

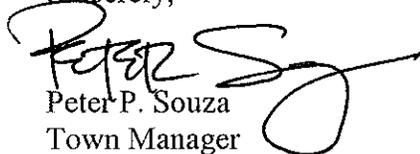
As you are well aware the current global and national economic crisis is hitting our residents heavily on a number of fronts. Many individuals and families are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their various living expenses. This is also the case for a number of cities and towns across the State. As you and your colleagues in the General Assembly search for ways to provide relief in this difficult time I would suggest one no cost opportunity is to allow municipalities at their option to delay State mandated property revaluation. Such a measure would help cities and towns save money in these extraordinary times by not having to contract for revaluation services but more importantly not placing a greater tax burden on the homeowner simply due to increased property assessments.

Providing a local option relative to implementing property revaluation is a no cost method of providing relief to property owners and municipalities. This has been done previously when financial times were strong. Times call for this local option even more this year.

My suggestion is relatively simple: enable towns and cities, via local option, to decide what's best for their communities relative to a delay of property revaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Peter P. Souza
Town Manager

c: Senator Eric Coleman, 2nd District
Senator John Kissell, 7th District
Representative Matt Conway, District 61
Representative Peggy Sayers, District 60