



TOWN OF GOSHEN

42 NORTH STREET – P. O. BOX 187 – GOSHEN, CT 06756-0187
PHONE 860 491-2308 x 221 FAX 860 491-6028

ROBERT P. VALENTINE, FIRST SELECTMAN EMAIL 1stselectman@goshenct.gov

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Government Administration and Elections Committee

Re: Raised Bill No. 6696

Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I am here today to appose Raised Bill No. 6696.

First and foremost, this bill has been written without the benefit of the committee having received the report from the Task Force on Municipal Ethics. The Task Force, created by legislation last session, was charged with exploring the issue of municipal ethics and preparing a report to the Legislature on its findings. The report addresses the issue of municipal ethics in a comprehensive, strait forward manner, and was unanimously approved by Task Force members.

The bill before you today is much to complicated and would create confusion for municipal officials and the public alike.

One example would be the definitions on dollar amounts of acceptable gifts that municipal officials could receive. These definitions would not allow a municipal ethics commission the ability to determine what would reasonably be expected to influence the action(s) or judgment of an official or employee.

Were they to be set as proposed, they would become out dated over time creating a un-realist standard to go by.

I would urge this committee to wait to adopt any bill until it has an opportunity to review the work of the Task Force.

Robert P. Valentine
First Selectman, Town of Goshen
Member, Task Force on Municipal Ethics
Chairman, Litchfield Hill Council of Elected Officials