

To: Labor and Public Employees Committee
From: Mayor John Harkins
Date: 2/17/2010
Re: HB 5059 - Municipal Assessor Appointments

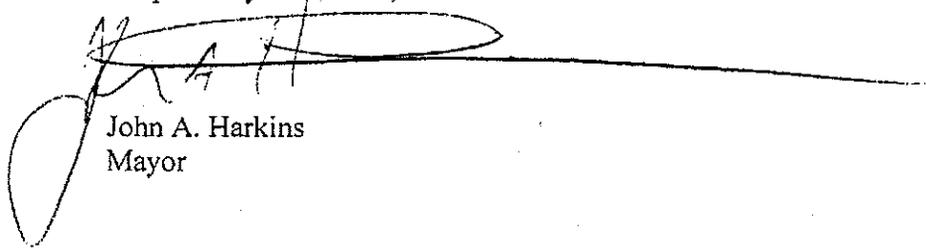
Please accept this written testimony as my support of HB 5059. As the Mayor of a large town and former State Representative, I understand the need to shield the position of assessor from political pressures.

I am not only the Mayor of a town who has completed an October 1, 2009 revaluation I am also a CT Certified Licensed Appraiser. As an appraiser I have frequented many Assessor's Offices through out the state. The assessor's office is vital to the day-to-day operation of the town. Therefore I think it would be detrimental to the town for the assessor to have to deal with pressures from within his own administration as well.

HB 5059 is a good government bill that would ensure that assessors are not subject to undue pressures or inappropriate requests in the performance of their duties. As the guardians of our grand lists, no assessor should be faced with either losing their job or forced to compromise their integrity.

Please support HB 5059.

Respectfully submitted,


John A. Harkins
Mayor