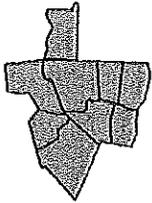


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WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

Chairman Coleman
Chairman Sharkey
Members of the Planning & Development Committee

March 10, 2010

RE: Support for the following bills:

- S. B. No. 144 AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCED REGIONALISM.
- S. B. No. 159 AN ACT CONCERNING INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AND ENHANCED REGIONALISM.
- S. B. No. 197 AN ACT CONCERNING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS.
- S. B. No. 198 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.
- S. B. No. 199 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.
- S. B. No. 303 AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL HOTEL TAX.
- H. B. No. 5255 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL MANDATE RELIEF.
- H. B. No. 5257 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TERMINATION OF NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.
- H. B. No. 5331 AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO JOIN IN STATE CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SERVICES.
- H. B. No. 5336 AN ACT CONCERNING SHARED SERVICES.
- H. B. No. 5337 AN ACT AUTHORIZING TWO OR MORE MUNICIPALITIES TO PURSUE JOINT EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS.
- H. B. No. 5338 AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL PLANS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.
- H. B. No. 5031 AN ACT REDUCING COSTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.

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 the above legislation regarding Mandates, Regionalism, Taxes, and the State Plan of Conservation and Development.

Too often our municipalities are left with unfunded mandates, additional costs, and increased staff time as a result of legislative action. The contained bills, if implemented, will truly reduce town budgets, provide much needed revenue, enhance regionalism and, increase the efficiency of local and state government (much needed in these difficult economic times).

Thank you for your consideration in moving these bills forward.

Sincerely,

Mark N. Paquette
Executive Director, WINCOG