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Testimony
Representative Russell A. Morin
28th District Wethersfield
March 2010

SB 303 An Act Concerning A Municipal Hotel Tax

Chairman Sharkey, Chairman Coleman, Vice Chairman Drew, Vice Chairman Harris, Ranking Member Aman, Ranking Member Fasano and Honorable Members of the Planning and Development Committee, Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 303 An Act Concerning A Municipal Hotel Tax.

This is not the first time that you have heard my testimony on this matter, and while the formula for distribution of the revenue created by this proposed legislation has changed, my support for it has not. One of the most discussed issues both in this legislature and even more so in our communities, is the ever increasing reliance on property taxes to fund our towns and Boards of Educations. This form of taxation is making it more difficult for our senior citizens and others on a fixed income to stay in their homes.

Originally, the revenues would have been split between those communities that have hotels with the balance being distributed to those that do not, but as a result of the hard work of the MORE commission I feel that we have an improved version. As the legislation is currently before you it has the distribution with 1% going to the host municipality, 1% to the towns that do not have hotels and 1% going to regional entities, with the intent of enhancing regional projects. This distribution will not only strengthen individual towns but will also encourage and support towns working together. Again, I thank you for this opportunity to testify about this important legislation and I urge you to support this bill as well as the others that the MORE commission has produced SB 197 An Act Concerning In-School Suspensions, HB 5255 An Act Concerning Municipal Mandate Relief, HB 5336 An Act Concerning Shared Services, and HB 5337 An Act Authorizing Two or More Municipalities to Pursue Joint Employee Health Insurance Plans; that you will be hearing today.