

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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DATE: MARCH 10, 2010
TO: CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: MELODY CURREY, CHAIRMAN, CRCOG POLICY BOARD
LYLE D. WRAY, PHD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: SENATE BILL NO. 144, AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCED REGIONALISM;
AND
SENATE BILL NO. 159, AN ACT CONCERNING INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AND ENHANCED REGIONALISM

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is a regional planning organization representing the City of Hartford and the 28 surrounding municipalities. We have served the region for over 30 years and helped them gain significant efficiencies in the spending of taxpayer dollars through cooperative purchasing and other regional service sharing initiatives.

We would like to remind the committee of our very successful efforts in the area of cooperative purchasing which have been helping municipalities since 1968. We have 81 members of the Capitol Region Purchasing Council today and are very proud of the savings we offer through our annual bids, energy procurement consortiums and indefinite quantity construction program. We also administer service sharing grants from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management which have been instrumental in helping communities work together in the areas of public safety, IT, public health and public works. This is all in addition to our activities in community planning and transportation which help communities work together for the betterment of our region.

We believe the key missing component is a dedicated funding stream for municipalities to help them launch new areas of service sharing. From our experience, even the most simple of intermunicipal cooperative arrangements results in legal counsel fees, administrative time and planning time – all necessary for the due diligence CRCOG and its communities must perform to make sure these cooperative arrangements are best for their citizens. This bill would allow communities to share tax revenue as a result of cooperative activities and funnel some of those funds into the planning and development of future activities.

We offer our support for this bill and encourage your favorable action.