

BARBARA HENRY
First Selectman
TOWN OF ROXBURY
Testimony before the Finance Committee
March 7, 2011

SB-1007 –AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR’S RECOMMENDATIONS ON
REVENUE

As First Selectman of the Town of Roxbury, and as President of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), I urge you to *support* the provisions in **SB-1007** which make permanent the municipal share of the real estate conveyance tax.

The increase in the real estate conveyance tax was implemented in 2003, at no cost to the State, when State aid to municipalities was dramatically reduced. Municipalities required a new revenue source to prevent severe cuts in local services or steep hikes in property taxes. This remains true in 2011.

We believe that the locally collected real estate conveyance tax should remain as an appropriate component of state assistance to municipalities. This increase, which is still only half of what the State of Connecticut receives on a transaction, has been a critical revenue source over the past several years.

Therefore, we urge lawmakers to make this tax permanent so that we don't have to keep fighting every one or two years for this important source of revenue and be concerned about whether or not this is the year for the "sunset."

Thank you for your consideration.