

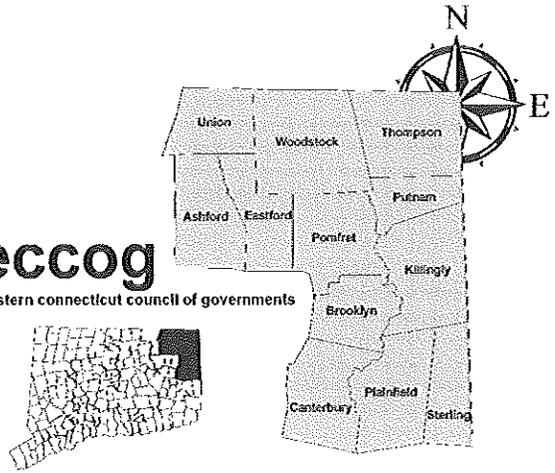
Testimony Regarding

House Bill 6294

**AN ACT CONCERNING
SHARED SERVICES**

nec cog

northeastern connecticut council of governments



The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) **strongly supports** House Bill 6294 and urges the Committee to give it favorable consideration.

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) is a voluntary statutorily authorized association of local chief-elected officials of twelve municipalities, in northeastern Connecticut. The members towns are: **Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Sterling, Thompson, Union, and Woodstock.** NECCOG is not another level of government. It is a continuing association of local governments without legislative or taxing power. We are strongly committed to regionalism and are engaged in it on number of fronts, including:

- Paramedic Intercept
- Revaluation
- Economic Development
- Animal Services
- GIS
- Engineering
- Transit Administration
- Land Use Assistance
- Administrative Services

NECCOG has also regionally addressed a number of critical issues including: Tribal Recognition, Special Education, and Solid Waste Management. Currently, we are examining the possibility of regionalizing fire marshal duties, building officials duties, and land use enforcement. Our basic test on any of these is (1) does it save money and (2) does it increase efficiencies/service for residents.

The use of regionalism to address many of Connecticut's immediate and long term budget challenges offers significant opportunity. The proper use of regionalism to address a range of needs now provided by 169 towns and various state agencies will lead to lasting efficiencies in the delivery of services and improvement of the quality of such services. The reduction in costs will contribute significantly to the reduction of the state deficit and lead to better spending decisions in the future. Several regions in Connecticut have successful records demonstrating such results.

Thank you.

For more information, please contact: John Filchak, NECCOG Executive Director
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