

CHAIRMEN SEN. HARP AND REP. WALKER; MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MY NAME IS **PAUL FORMICA** AND I AM **FIRST SELECTMAN OF EAST LYME** AND THIS YEARS CHAIR OF THE SECCOG REPRESENTING 20 MUNICIPALITIES, TWO TRIBAL NATIONS AND THREE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. I COME TODAY TO ASK YOU TO CONSIDER THE RAMIFCATIONS OF GIVING OUR GOVERNOR / ANY GOVERNOR, THE RESCISSION AUTHORITY TO CUT MUNICIPAL AID 5% MID FISCAL YEAR AS PROPOSED IN HB 6353

REPEAL OF THE MUNICIPAL AID EXEMPTION SIMPLY PUT IS NOT A SOLUTION TO ANYTHING. THE BUDGET DEFICITS THAT THE STATE CREATES AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IS PASSED ONTO US; MAYORS AND FIRST SELECT-MEN AND WOMEN WHO, SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION BEGAN, HAVE BEEN BALANCING OUR BUDGETS, CUTTING OUR SPENDING AND MAKING THE HARD DECISIONS NECESSARY TO KEEP TAXES LOW; TO STILL PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES, TO STILL FUND PUBLIC SAFETY, TO STILL FUND PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND TO STILL FUND THE MAJORITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

TO EVEN CONSIDER THIS AT ALL IN A YEAR WHEN UNRESTRICTED REVENUES FOR CITYS AND TOWNS ARE UNDER ASSAULT IS MIND BOGGLING. IN MY TOWN IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO REDUCE OUR PILOT BY \$755,000.00 to 0, AND OUR PEQUOT FUND BY \$286,000.00. TOGETHER THAT IS BASICALLY ALL OF THE UNRESTRICTED DOLLARS OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT GETS FROM THE STATE YET WE ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT TWO PRISONS; TWO NATIONAL GUARD CAMPS; TWO STATE PARKS AND PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES ON 17 MILES OF STATE ROAD AND 5 MILES OF I95 BETWEEN EXITS 71 AND 75.

THE PILOT FUNDS LOST TO EAST LYME'S TOWN GOVT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO BE ADDED TO OUR EDUCATION COST SHARE WHEN ENROLLMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS IS DECLINING AND THE MBR PROTECTS THE BOARD OF ED BUDGET.

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REPEAL OF THE MUNICIPAL EXEMPTION ON RECISSIONS WOULD ALLOW THE GOVERNOR TO COME BACK IN 6 MONTHS AND SWEEP ANOTHER 5%? WHERE WOULD HE OR SHE GET IT FROM?? THE TAR AND THE LOCIP FUNDS?? AND WHERE AND HOW WOULD WE MAKE IT UP? OUR REVENUE OPTIONS ARE LIMITED AND SHRINKING ALL THE TIME.

THE GOVERNOR HAS STATED THAT HIS BUDGET WILL BE NET NUETRAL TO US YET THE CUTS AS PRESENTED ARE UNPRECEDENTED. THE GOVERNOR HAS STATED THAT HE WILL NOT RAISE TAXES ANY MORE YET PROPERTY TAXES WILL SKYROCKET AS RESULT OF THESE PROPOSALS.

PLEASE- CONSIDER ALL THESE PROPOSALS CAREFULLY AND REJECT THEM, ESPECIALLY THE REMOVAL OF THIS EXEMPTION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR HARD WORK ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US.

PAUL M FORMICA