

INCORPORATED 1645

THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON



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TO: The Honorable Senator John W. Fonfara
The Honorable Representative Patricia M. Widlitz

DATE: March 4, 2013

SUBJECT: SB 843 Public Hearing - An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget

Please accept this memorandum as the Town of Farmington's testimony regarding SB 843 -- An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget.

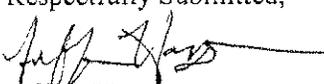
The Town of Farmington will be negatively impacted by the changes propose in SB 843. Among other things, the elimination of the PILOT for state-owned property, the elimination of the Pequot grant for two years, and the elimination of local revenue from the motor vehicle tax by creating an exemption for motor vehicles with a net assessed value up to \$20,000 will only increase the local property tax rate and/or reduce service levels at the local level. Farmington homeowners, businesses and vital municipal services will suffer from these dramatic changes.

The Town of Farmington is the host of several large state facilities, namely the UCONN Health Center and Tunxis Community College. The Town has historically sought to increase PILOT payments to the town for various reasons. Now we find ourselves in the situation where the entire reimbursement is in serious jeopardy. A program eliminated today in all reality will not be restored in the future.

Farmington and the rest of Connecticut's cities and towns will not be held harmless with the Governor's proposed budget. While Farmington may appear "whole" this year, the changes will have a direct impact on local property taxes and municipal services. The movement of funds from grants such as the PILOT to restricted grants like Town Aid Road and LoCIP ties the towns hands when allocating state grant funding to needed town services.

The potential loss of grants such as PILOT and tax revenue from motor vehicles totals nearly \$8,000,000 for Farmington. If Farmington faced this level of revenue shortfall the ramifications would be dramatic and detrimental to the entire town. The increase to the tax rate would be completely unacceptable to the Town and its taxpayers.

On behalf of the residents and businesses of Farmington, we urge you to pass a modified state budget that protects municipal revenues, property taxpayers, and the quality of life in Farmington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Hogah
Chair, Farmington Town Council


Kathleen Eagen
Town Manager

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

