

**Derrylyn Gorski
First Selectman
Town of Bethany
Public Hearing Testimony
Before the Labor Committee
February 26, 2013**

Re: HB-5533 – An Act Concerning the Municipal Employees Retirement System

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB-5533 which will increase the employee contribution rate to ensure on the need to provide towns with mandate relief.

Because the employee contribution rate under the Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS) is mandated by statute, the town's share of pension costs has increased significantly. In FY06, the MERS employer contribution was 6.75%. However, in FY13, the MERS employer contribution rate will be 12%, costing the Town of Bethany an additional \$20,000 per year.

This is putting enormous pressure on our local budget.

The employee contribution rate, which has never been increased, should be adjusted to provider a fairer structure for funding the employee retirement system.

Please support HB-5533 to assist towns in funding pension costs.

Thank you.