



# POMFRET 300



March 13, 2014  
Maureen Nicholson  
First Selectman  
Town of Pomfret

**HB 5507 The Appointment Of Zoning Enforcement Officials,  
Building Officials And Fire Marshals**

I would like to take express my support of HB 5507.

I am the first selectman in the Town of Pomfret -in the northeastern corner of Connecticut. When I took this position in November of 2013, I quickly became aware of a situation with our building official and learned that the position was appointed for four years. I had no control over the term of his employment. When I looked to explore options for sharing or regionalizing with other small towns through NECCOG, we were hampered because of the overlap and timing of employment terms which were staggered. Also, I learned that many towns did not know of statute (GS Section 29-260) and were already in violation of its requirements. My predecessor had appointed the position for two years.

My learning curve continued with (GS Section 29-297) as I discovered the absent, unresponsive fire marshal who was appointed for an indeterminate period -or life, whichever came first, would be difficult to replace. If I could find him, I would have to politely ask him to resign or go through some other gruesome procedure to get rid of him.

But still there is more. The Town's ZEO, who is paid by the Town, is appointed by the Planning and Zoning Commission. This makes a thinking person wonder how these things come into being. Whose employee is he/she?

These inconsistencies make the running of a town more difficult, and unnecessarily so. I hope in your wisdom, you will **approve Bill No. 5507.**

Thank -you in advance for your consideration and positive action for the towns in Connecticut that operate under our General Statutes.

Best regards,

Maureen Nicholson  
First Selectman  
Town of Pomfret