

TO: Planning and Development Committee
FROM: John A. Elsesser, Town Manager, Town of Coventry
RE: Support for Raised Bill 5584
DATE: March 18, 2014



Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Raised Bill 5584 concerning regionalization and making technical changes. Specifically I am writing in support of Section 10.

I am convinced that these pilot projects are well worth the investment to demonstrate the power of the broadband Nutmeg Network. This network linking Towns will be within every Town Hall within the next 18 months or so. We need successful projects to show both the functionality and savings of a new way of conducting municipal business.

By merging the back-office functions of Towns we can accrue savings to the property taxpayer without battling home-rule issues. But we must overcome fear of change and fear of new technologies. The Nutmeg Network will allow Towns to choose among various options right for each Town at great savings compared to individual purchases. It will also allow the creation of user groups for each software to allow peer support.

These projects are the next logical step to utilize this cutting-edge fiber network and promise to be the most cost-effective means of long-term municipal savings and service enhancements to the taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.