

N-T

Barbara Henry  
First Selectman  
Town of Roxbury  
Planning & Development Committee  
February 24, 2014

Re: **SB-40 - POSTING OF PUBLIC NOTICES ON TOWN WEBSITES**  
**HB-5055 – AN ACT ELIMINATING MUNICIPAL MANDATES**

Thank you for raising bills that recognize the need to reduce, eliminate or freeze numerous unfunded state mandates on municipalities - something COST and others have urged for years. Towns need such "tools" to lower the cost of local government operations - especially during these tough economic times.

I urge support for **SB-40**, which will allow towns to save much needed funds by posting legal notices on municipal websites. This bill allows government to provide better service at a lower cost while still meeting the needs of constituents. Allowing towns to post legal notices on their websites along with a brief summary in local newspapers provides the community with greater access to important information.

This is a common sense measure that will make it easier for people to keep track of legal notices which can be easily missed in the newspaper.

I also urge support for **HB-5055**, which addresses concerns raised by towns regarding an unnecessary report that we must file with the Connecticut Siting Council each year even though the Council refers towns to its own database for the information. The bill also eliminates a charge imposed on municipalities for a program administered by the state Department of Motor Vehicles to prevent individuals from registering their cars when they are delinquent on taxes and allows towns to delay property tax revaluations.

In addition to these mandate relief issues, I urge you to take a serious look at some of the big cost drivers facing municipalities, such as the prevailing wage requirements. Because the prevailing wage thresholds have not been increased since the early 1990s, relatively small projects, such as salt sheds, parking garages and locker rooms, are subject to the higher wage rates, increasing the cost of projects by a considerable amount.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.