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**Testimony  
John Elsesser  
Town Manager  
Town of Coventry  
Before the Planning & Development Committee  
February 24, 2014**

**SUPPORT - SB-40, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF  
MUNICIPAL LEGAL NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS**

I would like to thank the Planning & Development committee for raising SB-40, which will help reduce municipal costs and provide greater access to residents regarding important notices.

SB-40 will allow local governments 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.

Leaving legal notices on the site for the entire duration required by law in advance of action referenced in the notice, rather than the current requirement of one or two days provides much greater transparency to the community. The small amount of the population who are without internet access can also be aware of important information through the brief summaries placed in local newspapers.

Internet postings can be done at minimal cost. However, towns are forced to place expensive ads in newspapers. In addition, many small town newspapers have gone out of business, requiring towns to publish notices in the more expensive metropolitan newspapers.

Allowing towns with the staff and Internet capabilities to post such notices on their websites, with a brief summary in the newspaper, will help reduce costs and provide the community with greater access to information.

**I urge your support for SB-40.**