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Testimony
Kathy Eagen
Town Manager
Town of Farmington
Before the Planning & Development Committee
February 24, 2014

RE: SUPPORT - SB-40: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL LEGAL NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS

I urge you to support **SB-40** which authorizes municipalities to publish a brief summary of a matter being noticed in a newspaper with a reference to the municipality's Internet web site for additional information in lieu of publication of a full legal notice.

This has been a very difficult budget year, given that state aid is expected to be flat-funded once again and other sources of stat aid are uncertain. Although we are making significant efforts to reduce costs, revenues have been flat or decreasing, putting us in the position of having to look for additional cuts or increase property taxes.

Unfortunately, state mandates, many of which are under-funded or unfunded, make it difficult to control costs in our budgets. I therefore support SB 40 which allows towns to cut costs by posting legal notices on town websites with brief summaries of the matter in local newspapers.

Posting legal notices on a town's website would be much more efficient. Increasingly, residents turn to the town's website for information on a wide range of issues, including legal notices. We should be able utilize technology to reduce costs associated with publishing legal notices in newspapers.

SB-40 offers a good compromise that allows community members to access information in the most convenient way. Those without internet access will still be alerted to important information in the newspaper and can choose to find the full posting by accessing the internet at a local library or by contacting the town hall.

Therefore, I strongly support **SB-40: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL LEGAL NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS.**

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