



# TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD

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## Written Testimony

Susan Chapman

First Selectman, Town of New Fairfield

Public Safety Committee

March 4, 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Susan Chapman, First Selectman of the Town of New Fairfield and a member of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST).

I am writing to you today to urge your support for HB-5391 - AN ACT CONCERNING OVERTIME AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS. As you know, this bill seeks to reduce the municipal contribution rate for overtime and fringe benefit costs from 100% to 70% to assist towns in maintaining the Resident State Trooper program.

Over the past few years, the state legislature has *increased* the amount towns are required to reimburse the state for Resident State Trooper overtime costs from 70% to 100%. In the town of New Fairfield our share for the costs has increased significantly, they are as follows:

- 2011-12, our share was 63.60%
- 2012-13 our share was 72.95%
- 2013-14 our share will be 83.85%

As you can see the town's share of these costs has increased dramatically due to increases in fringe benefit rates. In addition, the notification of changes in the fringe benefit rate was received long after the adoption of our budget. This year, New Fairfield was notified that the fringe benefit rate was increased from 72.95% to 83.85% effective July 1. This unbudgeted increase has increased the Town of New Fairfield's budget by an additional \$50,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB-5391.

Sincerely,

Susan Chapman

First Selectman, Town of New Fairfield