

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD



WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

Senator Joan V. Hartley  
Representative Stephen D. Dargan  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Bill # 5531 An Act Concerning Mutual Consolidation of Dispatch Facilities

Dear Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan;

For the past eight years, I, as First Selectman of the Town of Waterford, have been working to regionalize our dispatch function with other towns in New London County. I have collaborated with East Lyme and New London in this effort with little success in completing the effort until recently. There was agreement to move forward but the implementation steps forced us to begin again. We currently have a team of people working out the various details for this merger, but there have been some roadblocks. Initially, we attempted to use inter-local agreements to establish this group but there were details that could not be worked out between the towns. Our most recent efforts that are now in front of you to resolve the various issues and allow us to move forward are the result of three town attorneys, representatives from all three towns and the administration of all three towns. We have identified several other organizations that have been able to organize as a municipal authority which gives the powers required by an independent entity representing several municipalities.

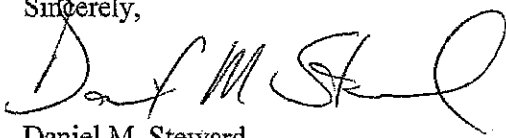
We are very aware of the State's interest in regionalizing services and dispatch is a great one to begin with. We believe this bill (#5531) will allow for this function to happen not only for our three towns, but for many other communities across the State of Connecticut.

By creating an authority, we are removing the obligation of any one town having to have the ownership and responsibility directly. There is a continued ownership of the authority and responsibility to fund and staff the organization, but on an equalized basis for all expenses.

We have experience with several other authorities where this type of legislation has been enacted and is working very well for the communities they serve. My reference is to the Health districts and to SCCRA which is our trash to energy facility in Preston, CT. My request from the Town of Waterford is to enact this bill to allow our municipalities the flexibility we need to implement the regionalization of our dispatch organizations. Although I do not speak for New London or East Lyme, I know their organizations have been a party to the drafting of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this act and your time in reviewing it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel M. Steward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being the most prominent.

Daniel M. Steward  
First Selectman  
Town of Waterford  
(860) 444-5834

CC: Senator Andrea Stillman  
Representative Elizabeth Ritter  
Representative Ed Jutilla  
Representative Ernie Hewett