



WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

JAMES S. MARPE
First Selectman

April 20, 2015

Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
Legislative Office Building, Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: S.B. No. 1136 AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX REFORM
S.B. No. 1131 AN ACT CONCERNING GRAND LIST GROWTH
S.B. No. 1 AN ACT CONCERNING TAX FAIRNESS AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Dear Committee Members:

As First Selectman of the Town of Westport, I am writing to share my concerns regarding S.B. 1136, An Act Concerning Property Tax Reform, S.B. 1131, An Act Concerning Grand List Growth, and S.B. No. 1, An Act Concerning Tax Fairness and Economic Development.

As a member of the Western Connecticut Council of Government (WestCOG), Westport supports regional collaboration. However, any laws being considered to foster such collaboration must be equitable. I cannot fully support any legislation that sets a regional tax rate or which establishes a statewide mill rate for motor vehicles. This legislation would eliminate a municipality's authority to set its own tax rate and impose and collect its own personal property taxes.

I commend the legislature as it attempts to address complex regional issues. However, I feel strongly that the ramifications of these referenced bills would serve to alienate and further disenfranchise municipalities at a time when the focus and effort should be on working together on a cohesive plan for the betterment of *all Connecticut taxpayers*.

I urge you to reconsider these proposed bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James S. Marpe", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

James S. Marpe
First Selectman
Town of Westport