



**Testimony
Barbara Henry
First Selectman
Town of Roxbury
Planning & Development Committee
February 4, 2015**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in *support* of **HB-5096**, which will require any new unfunded mandate to be approved by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly.

Given the difficult budgetary challenges facing our towns and cities, it is more important than ever that Connecticut adopt meaningful mandate relief this session. By requiring any new unfunded mandate to be approved by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly, this bill will underscore the municipal costs associated with a proposed bill. It will also give lawmakers sufficient opportunity to weigh the costs and benefits of a proposal, and determine whether there are any ways of reducing or funding the costs to alleviate the burden on our municipalities.

Connecticut must view towns and cities as partners in shaping policies affecting the critical services that we provide to our residents, including education, public health and safety, economic development and planning and conservation. **HB-5096** will help ensure that a partnership will exist between each level of government and that discussions regarding the fiscal impact of a particular bill take place before new unfunded mandates are imposed on municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the bill.