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Testimony Regarding

Raised Bill 7036

An Act Concerning Bonding for Regional Dog Pounds

made to the membership of the

Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) **strongly supports** the intent of Raised Bill 7036 and urges the membership of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to give it favorable consideration.

For more than 11 years NECCOG has operated a regional animal services program. During this time we have placed more than 4,300 animals. We operate the former Town of Killingly dog pound as a regional animal shelter. Our shelter contains 21 dog kennels and room for approximately 25 cats. We are often full and are in need of expanding our dog kennel space, indoor adoption, quarantine space and additional room for the housing of cats. We also operate a regional trap neuter and release program for feral cats. Our regional program has resulted in a savings of between ten and sixty percent for our participating towns and provided them with 24/7/365 coverage compared to the part-time services they had prior to their participation in the NECCOG program. With the start of the 2016 fiscal year, we are anticipating two additional towns to the program - giving us eleven participating towns.

Unfortunately, as drafted Raised Bill 7036 is of no benefit to the NECCOG Regional Animal Services Program. Our program is organized and operated through NECCOG (4-1124i of the General Statutes) as a regional council of governments and not through intermunicipal agreements (7-148cc of the General Statutes). Additionally, the bill speaks exclusively to “dog pounds” which we believe should be broadened to include other domestic animals - most notably cats.

We suggest the following language changes:

- ▶ Line 4 - add after the word “town” “ regional council of governments” change and replace “dog pound” with “animal care facility”
- ▶ Line 7 - add “regional council of governments” after the word “town”
- ▶ Line 9 - replace “dog pound” with animal care facility”
- ▶ Line 10 - add after “town” “regional council of governments”

Thank you for your consideration of our position and suggested language changes.

For more information, please contact: John Filchak, NECCOG Executive Director - john.filchak@neccog.org