



TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

INCORPORATED 1858

EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06026

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March 5, 2015

Senator John Fonfara – Chair of Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

Representative Jeffrey Berger, Co-Chair

Members of the Committee

Re: SB 946 An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget

As the Finance Committee considers SB 946, please be aware its impact on the Resident Trooper Program. The Governor's proposed change to cost-sharing percentages for the Resident Trooper Program will have a devastating effect on small towns such as East Granby. Based on State Police projections and the Governor's proposal, East Granby's FY16 labor and overhead costs will increase by \$99,000 over the current year. This change alone will increase the General Government budget by over 2%. If this proposal is not reversed, East Granby will probably be forced to reduce from two troopers to one trooper and add a police officer. Even with that change our total costs would still increase by \$45,000 over the current year or an increase of 1% on the overall Town budget.

The Resident Trooper program is an excellent program however cost-sharing at 100% is going to force Towns to down-size their number of troopers. This ultimately will effect the State Budget as those "down-sized" troopers revert back to the State Police expense lines. For example, if ten towns reduce one junior trooper each, with no town offset, the effect is \$1.5 million dollars of expenses that would go back to the FY16 State Police budget. Certainly towns need to pay a portion of costs but a 100% share means the towns are paying the entire cost for a trooper who has statewide jurisdiction (including highway calls while on duty in town) and it hardly seems equitable.

As an example of what comprises costs for the program, I'll use a senior trooper. Under a 100% cost share in FY16, East Granby will pay salary (\$93,530), longevity (\$436), fringe benefits (\$82,746), travel miles (\$2,176), trooper stipend (\$1,200), motor vehicle depreciation (\$5,712), supplies (\$376) and clothing (\$268) for a cost of \$186,444. Overhead costs are 116% of labor!

By requiring small towns to pick up 100% of the Resident Trooper program costs, the proposed budget will undermine public safety in smaller communities and/or force increases in property taxes. It is unfortunate that as towns are forming regional partnerships to achieve savings, this action will undermine a successful regional program that allows the state and the towns to share responsibility for providing critical public safety services.

Regards,

James M. Hayden
First Selectman