

## Members of Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

I appreciate the opportunity to have my testimony presented to the Committee and regret my inability to testify personally due to three conflicting appointments.

My comments concern SB 946 Section 26 the budget recommendation to increase the municipal cost share for the Resident State Trooper Program and Section 25 the increase in the Solid Waste Tax. As First Selectmen of the Town of Washington located in Litchfield County our Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance are struggling with our Annual Budget and a declining Grand List while working to maintain essential services for our citizens. Resident Trooper Steve Sordi's services are an integral part of Washington's public safety program and disposal of Solid Waste is a State mandated function of Town government.

The 30 percent increase in Town cost sharing for the Resident State Trooper Program will be an immediate and unforecasted jump in our Police Budget. Based on FY 14-15 costs this additional \$53,226 in cost sharing used to boost State revenue will increase Washington's Police Budget; which includes Trooper Sordi and two full time constables; by 18% to cover a labor contract we have no control over.

The 1 dollar per ton increase in the Solid Waste Tax by contract will be a direct pass through on Washington's per ton tip fee for solid waste delivered to Covanta Energy in Bristol Conn. The 66% increase in this tax will not only increase Washington's solid waste expense but will affect municipalities state wide. "Trash to Energy" plants such as Covanta's have been a clean, reliable, and economically stable recipient of municipal waste for decades giving Towns an in state option for State mandated regulated disposal of MSW.

The premise of "doing no harm" to Connecticut towns by not cutting state aid is immediately negated when raising state revenue is accomplished by increasing municipal expenses unprecedented amounts. Once again the Governor's budget is balanced on the backs of Connecticut municipalities only this time through the political backdoor, out of the headlines, by increasing expenses while "doing no harm".

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