

February 3, 2015

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Planning and Development Committee
State Capital
Hartford, CT 06106

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to voice my support for Proposed House Bill No. 5096: An Act Increasing the Threshold Required for Passage of Unfunded Mandates. As a tax payer in the town of Waterford I would like to see an end to these unfunded mandates that emanate for Hartford and place all of the funding pressure on the local property tax payers. I am also an elected member of the Representative Town Committee (RTM) from the 2nd District of the town. I have found over the years that these mandates impose incredible costs onto the town and ultimately on to the tax paying citizens.

In the state of the current economic environment that we are in we, the town, are trying to keep the cost of government as low as possible. But with an almost never ending stream of unfunded mandates, and great ideas, coming from Hartford it places the entire burden on the towns to account for how they will be paid. This in turn takes away money from projects that the citizens of the town would like to have completed and most likely will increase their cost of living in the town as well. Even a small increase in the tax burden borne by those on a fixed income or who, for a myriad of other reasons, are unable to bear the brunt of any additional cost never seems to come to light when these ideas are being presented.

Please for the sake of those who can least afford these costs and also to help contain the total tax burden that the towns will have to place on the tax paying citizen I encourage you to pass this bill.

Kindest regards,

Michael Hannan