



**N. Maggie Cosgrove
Chief Financial Officer
Finance Department**

February 18, 2016

Re: Support HB 5182

Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

I would like to express our support of HB 5182 An Act Exempting Leased Municipal Property.

In Colchester, our Town leases a building for our senior center, the Board of Education (BOE) leases a building for its alternative education program, and the Town, BOE, and Library all lease personal property (photocopier machines, etc.).

Our town expends significant employee resources in the tracking, assessment, billing, collection, budgeting, and administration of all of this leased property that is solely used by the Town and BOE for public purposes. In addition, the property taxes assessed on leased property is billed back to the Town and BOE as part of the cost of using the property.

C.G.S. Sec. 12-81(4) only exempts property that is owned by the Town and not property that is leased by the Town or BOE for public purposes.

The passage of HB 5182 will actually reduce costs to the Town (bill processing, postage/ mailing, cost of using the property) and will free up employee resources so that they may better serve the public they serve.

The Town of Colchester strongly supports HB 5182 that will eliminate red tape and allow municipalities to reduce expenses and better utilize town resources.

Respectfully,

N. Maggie Cosgrove, CFO
Town/BOE of Colchester