TOWN OF STONINGTON

SELECTMAN'S OFFICE
ROBERT SIMMONS
FIRST SELECTMAN

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March 3, 2016

Senator Catherine A. Osten, Co-Chair of Planning and Development Committee
Representative Philip J. Miller, Co-Chair of Planning and Development Committee

Raised Bill 5485 An Act Concerning Municipal Taxation

Thank you for holding this important hearing on an issue that hurts towns like Stonington. Section one of this bill amends §12-60 of the Connecticut General Statues (CGS) by eliminating a set number of years that a certificate of correction shall be issued.

In 1990 this same section was amended to remove the language that is presently being proposed "at any time". The reason for the initial change in 1990 was to protect a municipality and taxpayer from adjustments, additions or deletions of tax obligations over a long period of time. In some cases a change crossed revaluation periods. It is important to the Town to rely on a Grand List to sustain expenses in order to operate the Town, as well as the taxpayer that has not anticipated the obligation of retroactive taxes with interest.

The Town is therefore opposed to the elimination of a set (3) year period contained in the section 1 of this provision as it impairs the stability and establishment of a current or future municipal budget.

Section 2 of this bill is enabling legislation that may be beneficial to our Town following a natural disaster. This section affords our Town the option to abate taxes from the date of occurrence to the following October 1st. We view this section to be beneficial to our Town and taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please do not carry section 1 of this burdensome bill forward.

Sincerely,

Thanks so much!

Robert "Rob" Simmons, First Selectman
Town of Stonington
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