TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael T. Finkelstein
Mayor

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For many years the Town of Ledyard Emergency Communications Center, a division of the Town of the Ledyard Police Department, has operated as a multitown PSAP for the Towns of Ledyard & Preston. The Combined population of the two communities is 19,377, while in 2015 the Ledyard ECC received 9,787 911 calls. In addition to the 911 calls, thousands of emergency calls were received utilizing seven digit telephone numbers not tracked by DESPP. The successful consolidated working relationship between the two Towns has been extremely effective in allowing us to provide outstanding service to our residents. We have also had, and continue to have discussions with several other communities in attempts to increase from a Multitown to Regional PSAP. The current funding received from DESPP is crucial to our operations and our ability to serve our communities. In making attempts to consolidate 911 PSAPS several years earlier, the State attempted to enact a minimum population threshold. This was widely discussed and at the time, many communities expressed concern in reaching that minimum population number. It also must be recognized that PSAPS must effectively and efficiently serve their communities, not just be a starting point for 911 calls.

In Southeastern Connecticut, communities which have tried in earnest to consolidate have found difficulty achieving the thresholds placed in this bill. While we do not disagree with the idea of consolidation and the benefit it has for the State and Region, we strongly disagree with the 40,000 population/12,000 911 call thresholds as the methodology. In other areas of the state neighboring communities can easily combine and place themselves over those numbers. However in Southeastern Connecticut this is not the case. In fact we have had discussions with four other communities who, if combined with Ledyard, would still not achieve the required 40,000 population. This ideal is counteractive to what the intent of consolidation should be, which is to provide cost efficient and effective service on a consolidated basis. Also, based on the proposed wording, Towns are left with little to no options should they not have willing or capable partners in their region. I ask that you reconsider the language contained within this bill and strike the addition of population and 911 call minimums, and related language.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Finkelstein
Mayor