Hobart, Jamie

From: Rob DePietro <aredee3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 9:31 AM
To: pstestimony
Subject: Testimony for Bill 234

My name is Robert E. DePietro, and I live at 90 Jared Sparks Road, Willington, Ct. Let me begin by saying I am in favor of the Connecticut State Police investing in the training of troopers to be better prepared to perform their duties. I think it goes without saying that all law abiding citizens support the troopers out on patrol.

With that said, I am opposed to any consideration to build a seven million plus facility in Willington or elsewhere. The Willington site specifically doesn't make sense for the host of reasons you have already heard in testimony, so I won't repeat them here. To spend any extra money to construct a brand new facility in such a small state doesn't make any sense at all. We as taxpayers have not seen economic relief from the Great Recession and everyday we hear about more and more budget shortfalls. We as citizens have to watch our own budgets and plan accordingly to meet our needs until our economic situation changes.

I propose the State of Connecticut does the same. The firing range is just one example of the many department heads that continue to conduct business as usual without any oversight in the planning process. With the comments brought forth by the honorable Joe Courtney concerning the possibility of the BRAC commission closing the East Haven range, the State of Connecticut should be doing everything possible to prevent it. First step would be to diversify the demands on the base and have the troopers use it to the best of their ability. If it doesn't meet all the needs then compromise and keep the Simsbury range open to fill the gaps. Use the state money, our money, to protect investments already made.

When our economy does finally turn around and allow for expansion of State projects, five, maybe ten years down the road, then and only then should Connecticut consider new construction. It should be of need not desires. There is no need for a department head to want to construct a 'International Training Facility' in the third smallest state in the nation. We should keep our tax dollars efficient in any spending we consider. The State should look at the range formerly used by Hartford Police Department for a site to share with a struggling city. It was located in the meadows between the old landfill and the MDC properties, surrounded by the river and the highway, not schools, parks nor homes. Every few years we seem to spend a lot of overtime money to assist Hartford with it's crime by adding troopers to patrol the city. Why not consider a locally shared range, centrally located in the State, and an increase in Police presence all the time.

History has taught us that Connecticut did away with county government to save money and spare corruption. Why is it that the concept sharing resources and regionalization of services still can't be accomplished across such a small geographic area?

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
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