



TOWN OF GROTON

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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Re: GB 5047

February 26, 2016

Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I would like to express our opposition to the Governor's Bill 5047 An Act Concerning Exemptions under the Property Tax.

This bill would provide a complete exemption for personal property assessments of \$10,000 and under. Of the 1,950 taxable personal property accounts in the Town of Groton, this would exempt nearly 1,150 accounts. Under this proposed bill, the assessment office would still be tasked with its initial review of viability of these accounts prior to incurring the costs of printing and mailing the declarations in September. Prior to the finalization of the grand list, the assessor's office would still be required to receive and process each account individually for accuracy by comparing each to its prior years filing. Additionally, assets are assigned by location within Groton's nine fire districts. The potential for various industries such as leasing companies, waste management companies and others that are spread over various districts to pay no taxes to the town is unfair to other taxpayers. For those 1,150 accounts which will never pay taxes for those services, this amounts to a burden on the assessor's office.

The amount of detailed review that is applied to each account is understated and completely lost in the language of the proposed bill. To place this administrative burden on the municipalities amounts to an unfunded mandate that other Groton taxpayers would be required to absorb.

We respectfully request that this section of the governor's bill be rejected.

Respectfully,

Mark R. Oefinger, AICP
Town Manager