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Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and distinguished members of the Government Elections and Administration Committee: thank you so much for Raising HB 5394, An Act Concerning Endorsements of Town Committee Members.

I live in Windham and represent the 49th House District comprised of most of our town. I am one of almost 50 members of our local Windham Democratic Town Committee. Our town chair and the chairs of town committees from throughout Connecticut have expressed concern that a change in General Statutes section 9-391 during our last legislative session had the apparently unintended consequence of requiring every candidate endorsed for a position on a town committee to sign a certification of their endorsement within an extremely brief time frame.

Last session's change requires incumbent and newly endorsed town committee candidates to follow the same process for endorsement for town committee seats that must be followed by party endorsed candidates for municipal and state public office. This presents what I consider an unnecessary, impractical and excessively difficult requirement for town committees and their officers since local town committee endorsed candidates are numerous and do not appear on the ballot in general elections.

I am pleased to join town committee officials statewide to urge your support of HB 5394 so that candidates for election to town committees are exempted from the requirement that each one of what is in my situation 50 persons must sign a certification of their endorsement within a very brief time frame or forfeit their endorsement. All things considered, it seems to me that the signatures of the caucus chair and secretary should be sufficient to formalize town committee endorsements just as they have in the past.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.