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Testimony Regarding

Raised Bill 5603

An Act Concerning Regional Technology

made before the

Planning and Development Committee

March 11, 2016

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, members of the Planning and Development Committee - my name is John Filchak, Executive Director of the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. I also come before you today as a member of the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE). **Raised Bill 5603 speaks directly to issues we examined at the MORE Commission and I urge your favorable consideration of this legislation.**

HB 5603 would require municipalities, regions and the state in the preparation of their respective plans of conservation and development to take into consideration “the application and use of technology to enhance efficiencies, foster collaboration, increase transparency and access to information and reduce costs.” Technology has changed the way government operates and in many cases we are simply scratching the surface as to how technology can benefit the spectrum of services provided by government. Information technology, human resources, planning, finance, intra/inter town IT sharing, database management, network connectivity, transportation, security and more are all impacted by technology. Technology (such as the Nutmeg Network coupled with common software) in particular provides the opportunity for municipalities to collaborate on back-office functions.

The additions proposed to the formation of plans of conservation and development are logical and will lead to greater efficiencies and cost savings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.