

City Of Torrington



ELINOR CARBONE
Mayor

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Written Testimony of:
Elinor Carbone
Mayor
City of Torrington

Before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 9th, 2017

To the honorable members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, as Mayor of the City of Torrington, I wish to express my strong opposition to HB 7050 *An Act Concerning Enhancements to Municipal Finance and Accountability*.

As Mayor, of a distressed municipality, I am challenged to balance the needs of the community with the ability of our taxpayers to pay for those needs. Over the past several years, we have had to make very difficult decisions that will have a long-term impact on capital projects and maintenance of infrastructure. Despite those efforts, a reduction in our grand list and increases in expenses has created an onerous mill rate that impedes our ability to attract businesses and commercial investment.

The proposal presented in HB 7050 will result in a \$3,250,448.00 liability that our tax payers simply cannot afford.

I am opposed to being asked to budget for a pension obligation that is not negotiated by the local municipalities, as all of our other pensions have been. I am also exceedingly concerned that the State's request for the funding of 30% of the annual contribution will set a precedence that leads to the State's request for the municipalities to ultimately cover the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability for this pension fund.

Simply put, enacting HB 7050 and more specifically teachers' pension cost share language of the bill will result in higher property taxes for the residents of Torrington and the unintended consequences of shifting this annual contribution to the municipalities begs the question as to what the State intends to do about a long-term solution to the unfunded liability.

I strongly urge your opposition to this bill and appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elinor Carbone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elinor Carbone
Mayor