



Testimony of Goodwin College Regarding the Recommendations of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth.

**Appropriations, Commerce, Finance and Planning & Development Committees Public Hearing
March 21, 2018**

Goodwin College is a private, non-profit (IRS Registered 501-C3) institution of higher education located in East Hartford, Connecticut with over 3,500 students (95% CT Residents) coming from more than 136 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities.

Goodwin College is a strong supporter of the economic growth of the State of Connecticut as evidenced by the transformation of the banks of the Connecticut River in East Hartford where the college now calls home. We want to be a partner in the future growth of both the Town of East Hartford and the State of Connecticut.

Transportation

Goodwin College strongly encourages a state wide robust transportation infrastructure as called for in the commission's report. As an example, in Goodwin's case, a significant number of students, faculty and staff arrive and depart the school daily on the Connecticut Transit System. One of the largest student populations for Goodwin College comes daily from the City of Hartford and the City of New Britain. The CTfastrak busway between New Britain and Hartford has afforded those students a reliable, safe and easy access to Goodwin College and accordingly a good education.

Municipal Financial Challenges, PILOT and SILOT

PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)

Goodwin College all too well realizes the financial challenges that Connecticut municipalities face. East Hartford, the city Goodwin calls home, is generally designated one of the top twelve distressed municipalities in the state.

Provided the State of Connecticut is fiscally capable, Goodwin supports the full restoration of PILOT funding to East Hartford and other such cities as noted in the commission's report.

SILOT (Services in Lieu of Taxes)

SILOT is a new concept and Goodwin believes that the idea needs to be further vetted before considered. Goodwin College pays annual real property taxes on property it owns that is not utilized for college purposes. Additionally, being sensitive to the town's financial challenges, Goodwin has voluntarily left some college use properties as taxable. In a typical year, Goodwin pays the Town of East Hartford over \$600K in real property tax.

Question is to whether or not there will any guidelines for the municipality as it determines any SILOT fees levied as an example would SILOT guidelines take into consideration contributions by a non-profit to the municipality like real property taxes as well as other cash and in-kind annual contributions to the municipality.

Finally, in Goodwin's case, the college has three Sheff Inter-district Magnet Schools on its campus that also incur town services on occasion. Both the Connecticut State Department of Education and the municipal school district where the student resides exclusively fund those schools. If municipal SILOT fees were levied on those schools, Goodwin would have no choice but to pass along those fees to the two aforementioned funding sources.

Goodwin strongly opposes the SILOT concept.

Submitted by:

Gary E. Minor, Senior Director, College Relations – Goodwin College

Email: GMinor@goodwin.edu

(O): 860-727-6733; (C): 860-471-0379