

Town of Thomaston
Selectman's Office
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Honorable Senators & Representatives

As the First Selectman of Thomaston and as such the local representative of our residents, I am expressing my support for the proposals before your Committees submitted by the State Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Growth. It is important to note that many of the recommendations and conclusions brought forth by this August Commission are similar to that brought forth also by CCM, a body of which I am a member.

There are several recommendations that I strongly support and would like to highlight in my testimony. They are as follows:

- **Allow COG's to raise revenue for capital projects;**
- **Enable COG's to levy a .5% sales tax for Regional Economic Development and Shared Services.**

In light of the State's dire fiscal position and its reduction in revenue to COG's, these are no cost measures to the State that will allow COG's to continue to provide important services to its member Towns.

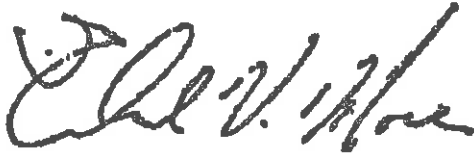
- **Increase the limit in which prevailing wage must be paid on rehabilitation projects to \$1 million.**
- **Remove health care & retirement benefits from the required labor negotiation process.**
- **Provide for a single neutral arbitrator to replace the 3 arbitrator system that now exists.**
- **Protect municipal fund balances at a level of 15% of annual budget expenditures to insure local ability to meet its financial obligations.**

Municipalities are facing difficult financial constraints, not unlike the State, with declining state revenue and stagnant to declining grand lists and extreme pressure to increase in mill rate. These measures will not affect the State directly

and as such are reasonable proposals that you should consider to bring municipalities' financial relief in these difficult times.

In closing, I thank all legislators for their hard work in these difficult times and sincerely request that you bring municipalities relief so that we may continue to provide the vital services that we at the local level provide for all our citizens of the great State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmond V. Mone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "M".

**Edmond V. Mone
First Selectman**