



Testimony by

Lyle Wray, Executive Director, Capitol Region Councils of Governments

for the Connecticut General Assembly Planning and Development Committee

February 22, 2017

SUPPORT - HB 6942 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND HB 6919 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF STATE GRANTS IN AID AND REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE FUNDS

The Capitol Region Council of Governments very much appreciates the opportunity to offer strong support for both HB 06942 and HB 6919.

HB 6942 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

CRCOG has been actively involved in the RPIP program from when it was first conceived. There are a large number of success stories across the capital region based on the support of this program. As just one example, more than 40% of CRCOG communities are now served by state of the art online building permitting software that provides convenience and savings to residents and businesses and much greater efficiency at the municipal level. Recently, CRCOG has taken advantage of city and town access to the Nutmeg/CEN network and RPIP grant funds for a statewide municipal cloud server to begin an aggressive ramp up of a portfolio of services offered not only in the CRCOG region but to all 9 COG regions and their towns including internet based phone service upgrades, hosting services to replace aging servers and provide for resilient disaster recovery and online Human Resources portal for salary data, job descriptions and more. Soon electronic document management services will be launching. The platform of the Nutmeg Network and Nutmeg server affords a very robust platform for scaling up many municipal back office services across the state.

We support the idea discussed earlier at a meeting of COGs and RESCs in the state for providing a focus on the use of some or most of the RPIP funds. We suggest that the legislature or CT OPM recommend focus areas in consultation with CT ACIR, COGs, CCM, and COST. One such focus might be the consolidation of back office functions between towns and schools, for example.

CRCOG supports HB 6942.

HB 6919 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF STATE GRANTS IN AID AND REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE FUNDS.

Regarding HB 6919 we support removing the 30% set aside for RESCs from the RPIP program. We believe that such an automatic division does not reflect the varieties of opportunities and different circumstances in communities. We believe that stronger COG and RESC cooperation makes a good deal of sense and we support that. Where we stand now is that less than 6 of our 38 communities

have fully integrated (and hence removed duplication) of town and school HR, Finance, IT and Property Management services. Working cooperatively with our RESC on back office integration among towns and schools beginning with a joint conference on the matter and proceeding to next steps. An automatic set aside will not serve us well going forward to meeting new and emerging challenges.

CRCOG supports HB 6919.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on these two bills.

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