

February 8, 2021

Dr. Ron Jarmin, Acting Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

RE: Federal Register Docket Number 201105–0290 Change to County Equivalents in the State of Connecticut

Dear Acting Director Jarmin:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) strongly supports the Census Bureau's proposal to consider Connecticut's nine regional planning regions as county equivalents for statistical purposes. CRCOG's thirty-eight (38) municipal chief elected officials (CEOs) voted unanimously to support this proposal at its January 24, 2018 meeting and re-affirmed its support at the January 27, 2021 meeting. The resolution from the January 24, 2018 meeting is attached to this correspondence. We are grateful to the Census Bureau for consideration of this proposal.

If this proposal is implemented, Connecticut will have access to a wealth of Census Bureau data sets by planning region, with which COGs, municipalities and state agencies will be able to effectively use in planning and provision of regional services. Today in Connecticut most county data sets are not used because there are no state, regional, or local government services organized around historic counties which were abolished. The proposal to recognize the planning regions as county equivalents will transform the data landscape in Connecticut. An example of a dataset that the COGs will put to good use is County Business Patterns. The COGs will use CBP in their economic development planning districts because for the first time the data will be tabulated along relevant geographies.

As you may know, the state of Connecticut abolished county government in 1961. In the 1960s the state established planning regions to serve the municipalities of the state. Today the state is divided up into nine planning regions. Each planning region is served by a Regional Council of Governments (COG) with a board of chief elected officials of the the municipalities in each region. All of the state's 169 municipalities are members of a COG.

Over the last decade the state of Connecticut has encouraged the expansion of regional government services through the COGs. Federal recognition of county equivalency will support this effort and allow municipalities to work through their COGs on more federal programs and grants.

CRCOG strongly supports the recognition of Connecticut's planning regions as county equivalents for Census Bureau statistical purposes. This proposal will facilitate better planning and public policy. Finally, Census Bureau recognition of planning regions will eventually lead to greater joint municipal participation in federal programs through their COGs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding CRCOG's support for this proposal.

Sincerely,



Marcia LeClerc
CRCOG Chair and Mayor of East Hartford



Lyle D. Wray
CRCOG Executive Director

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL
COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS AS COUNTY ANALOGS FOR
CONNECTICUT BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**

WHEREAS, Public Act 152 abolished county government in the state of Connecticut in 1959;
and

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes established regional councils of governments as political subdivisions of the state and authorizes them to provide the following services: "(1) engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning; (20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation" (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-31b);
and

WHEREAS, regional councils of governments are enabled by Connecticut General Statutes to "accept or participate in any grant, donation or program made available to counties by any other governmental or private entity"(Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-31b); and

WHEREAS, federal recognition of regional councils of governments as county analogs for the state of Connecticut would bring federal practice into conformity with Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, federal recognition of regional councils of governments as county analogs for the state of Connecticut would not change any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes or municipal ordinances;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CRCOG supports federal recognition of regional councils of governments as county analogs for the state of Connecticut.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified Secretary of the CRCOG certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the CRCOG Policy Board on January 24, 2018.

BY: 
Lori Spielman, Secretary
Capitol Region Council of Governments

DATE: 1-24-18