

March 10, 2023

Connecticut General Assembly
Government Administrations and Elections Committee
10 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 1190, An Act Concerning Regional Elections advisors and a task Force on Election Administration in Municipalities

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer, Rep. Blumenthal, and fellow committee members:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) serves 38 municipalities and approximately one million residents within the Greater Hartford region. CRCOG is pleased to support this bill for several reasons: clarification of roles, adequate funding for a needed regional function, and the opportunity to make election administration more effective and efficient.

First, renaming "regional election monitors" as "regional election advisors" is a more accurate description of the role, as the term "monitor" connotes a set of different reporting responsibilities. CRCOG's REM served and continues to serve as an advisor and facilitator of information that proved to be helpful to our member towns.

Second, providing a dedicated funding source to the regional councils of governments to support this function will facilitate the appointment of regional election advisors and help ensure that the regional programs remain viable over the long-term. CRCOG welcomes the opportunity to continue assisting our members with election issues.

Finally, establishing a task force will help make election administration more efficient and effective. The study will help our municipalities fully staff and properly train qualified people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: CRCOG Policy Board