

Act Number:	09-226	
Bill Number:	383	
Senate Pages:	2926-2928	3
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2009**

**VOL. 52
PART 9
2637 - 2957**

ckd
SENATE

111
May 21, 2009

Those absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number 267, File Number 299 and 838,
Substitute for Senate Bill 383, AN ACT EXEMPTING
REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS FROM PAYMENT OF LOCAL
PROPERTY TAXES, favorable report of the Committees on
Planning and Development; Finance, Revenue and
Bonding; and Appropriations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval and acceptance of the bill, sir,
would you like to remark further?

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

ckd
SENATE

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May 21, 2009

Mr. President. Senate Bill 383 would permit a municipality to provide a tax exemption for real property owned by a regional planning organization.

At the federal level, such an exemption is already provided and there's some unclarity regarding whether or not such organizations should receive a tax exemption for the real property owned as long as it's used in connection with the purpose and duties of the regional planning organization. There's one situation that I'm aware of where the regional planning organization owns the property where it has its headquarters. And there's some disagreement concerning the officials of that location -- that municipality whether or not the organization is entitled to an exemption regarding its ownership of this property.

This bill, Mr. President, seeks to clarify that situation, and I would urge its passage.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on Senate Bill 383? If not, Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

ckd
SENATE

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Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber. An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have voted, please check your vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage Senate Bill 383

Total Number Voting 35

Those voting Yea 35

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FASANO:

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the Members voted? If all the Members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally, and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Senate Bill Number 1068 as amended by Senate "B"

in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	149
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill is passed in concurrence.

Mr. Clerk, Calendar Number 655.

THE CLERK:

On Page 19, Calendar Number 655, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 383 AN ACT EXEMPTING REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATINS FROM PAYMENT OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES. Favorable Report by the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

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REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on acceptance and passage in concurrence. Explain the Bill, please, sir.

REP. RRYNOLDS (42nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill recognizes regional planning organizations as municipal entities for the purposes of local property taxes.

It would exempt organizations that are -statutorily defined as regional councils of government or other RPA type entities.

There are three important narrowing parameters. One is that it would only apply to real property.

Two, it would only apply to that property, which is related to carrying out the official functions of the RPO.

And third, any such exemption from taxation must be approved by the local legislative body.

At the current time, only the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments meets this criteria.

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Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I believe the summary did include what is currently happening.

It's my understanding, through you, Mr. Speaker, that there is only one building in the State of Connecticut that this would--

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

(Gavel.)

I'm having trouble hearing Representative Aman and he's only a few feet away from me. If we could take our seats, please. Thank you. Representative Aman, sorry.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. Starting over again, through you, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that currently there is only one building in the State of Connecticut that this legislation would currently have an impact on? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

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REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. And also the building has been receiving a waiver or an exemption from property taxes and this statute makes, codifies what has been common practice for that unit?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. It deals with a problem. When it first came to us there was a concern on the Planning and Development Committee that you could have a regional planning organization come in to a 30-story building, exempt the whole thing from property taxes.

As it worked through the system, we did make it a lot more narrow to cover what we're talking about. If

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that instance I'm talking about did go into a 30-story building, it would only be the portion that the organization was actually using would be tax exempt. The rest would be fully taxable, and of course that would have to be agreed to by the municipality.

So I thank the proponent for coming out, answering the questions, and urge my colleagues to vote for it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Representative Aman. Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening. Through you, Mr. Speaker, a few questions to the proponent of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed, Sir.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to Representative, who brought this out?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

That would be Representative Reynolds.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

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Sorry. It's the late hour, Mr. Speaker. Through you to Representative Reynolds, I'm looking for some examples of real property that would be owned by this type of an entity that would be different than another, or is this including office space and equipment, like in any other situation that we would exempt property taxes, or, just through you, some examples of that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would only be real property owned by that RPO and only that portion of the property that is related to carrying out the official duties and functions of that municipal related entity.

It does not include personal property.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you to Representative Reynolds. So I take that to mean that if an organization like this leased space from a

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larger office building and had equipment inside that it would be covered under this, that only that equipment that is in the space leased for this purpose would be covered under this proposal. Is that correct, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (68th):

That's correct. Only the real property related to the official duties of the organization, so no lease property would be covered under this Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you to Representative Reynolds, then if a regional planning organization owned a building and used only part of that space for its own use, and then leased out other space in the building, but the income stream was coming in to, the rent, et cetera, was coming into the regional planning organization, is it correct, through you, that only that particular space and property that is used for the purpose of the regional planning

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organization would be potentially exempted? Through
you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you to
Representative Reynolds, this is not an issue that I'm
overly familiar with, but I'm curious as to why it is
that we've decided that these organizations need to be
potentially exempted from property taxes versus other
types of entities that may perform good work.

I'm just curious as to why it is that we're sort
of narrowly tailoring this to regional planning
organizations.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These RPOs fulfill what
could largely be described as municipal functions and

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therefore it was deemed appropriate to treat them as
we would any other municipal entity. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the
gentleman for his answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. I'd call on Representative
Noujaim, but don't hurry so fast. You'll be out of
breath. The gentleman from Waterbury.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good evening, sir. Surprise.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Mr. Speaker, surprise. Thank you for your
indulgence, Mr. Speaker. I was just trying to print
the Bill so I can look through it, but Representative
Williams was shorter than I thought. He usually
speaks a little longer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Chair will take note of that, Representative
Noujaim.

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REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you, just a quick question to Representative Reynolds, if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Of course.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you. Representative Reynolds, I am presuming that these regional planning organizations are not associated with one specific municipality.

Like let us say, there is an organization that is located in Waterbury, but they are for the entire region, not just for one city. Would that be correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. The statutory definition of regional planning organization is in existing statute. Through you.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Okay, thank you, and I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Reynolds, so let us say that there is

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one area, let us say in any city, let us say in Hartford, and they are regional for the entire area around Hartford.

In this case, would the City of Hartford essentially lose the property tax that they would receive if this was not the case? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, but only with the blessing of the legislative body of the City of Hartford. Through you.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you. And through you, Mr. Speaker, so if they lose the property tax that they would otherwise have, how would they expect to make it up?

Like, if I give you a better example. So if Hartford loses that property tax, but the organization, the regional organization supported other areas around Hartford, such may be East Hartford, West Hartford, Avon, so those cities or those towns around the City of Hartford are receiving benefits but not having to incur any expenses, and not losing any property taxes.

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How does the City of Hartford make up for those benefits? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if the City of Hartford felt they could not live without that revenue, the local legislative body would not adopt this exemption.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, then the statute said that this cannot be applied until and unless the host city, if I may call it that way, agreed by the local charter and by local city government.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Mr. Speaker, I can't hear the question. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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Representative Noujaim, would you try again
please, and let me help.

(Gavel.)

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

You're welcome.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Much better, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. So through
you, Mr. Speaker, let us say, so this will not be
applied until and unless the local charter and the
local board of the certain municipality agree ahead of
time to this process and agree to live without the
property tax.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

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So through you, Mr. Speaker, this will not be then, if I'm correct, an unfunded mandate on the municipality?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Reynolds.

REP. REYNOLDS (42nd):

No, it is not an unfunded mandate. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your indulgence. And I appreciate the Representative's answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Are you ready for the question? If so, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber.

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The House is taking a Roll Call Vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the Members voted? Representative O'Connor. Thank you, sir. If all the Members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally.

And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 383 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill is passed in concurrence.

Representative Lyddy, for what purpose do you rise?

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 200.

THE CLERK:

On Page 31, Calendar Number 200, Substitute for House Bill Number 6609 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY

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instance, in the City of Ansonia several years ago when we had a major fire at the Latex Foam Corporation the fire police worked very closely with the local police in just the safety of rerouting traffic and so forth.

REP. SHARKEY: Okay. Well, thank you for educating me, both of you, on the subject and for the committee as well.

Any other questions from the committee?

If not, thank you very much for your testimony.

Is Senator Maynard still here? Yes. And he will be followed by Ron Kilcoyne.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify. I'll be brief and summarize my remarks. In your packet there's testimony. Attached to that is the letter from the Attorney General relevant to the testimony and two previous attempts to get this rather modest bill passed, and you'll see those all attached.

Essentially Senate Bill 383 is attempting to do a little housekeeping. In 2000 the Legislature permitted councils of governments and RPOs to purchase property at the request of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. They are the only council of government or RPO, to my knowledge, that does in fact own its own property.

This bill would seek to extend to them property tax exemption that applies to all municipal entities. It's a fairly simple, straightforward bill, but it would clear up a somewhat thorny local issue where the host

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COMMITTEE

community where the council of government is situated, the tax collector persists in his efforts to collect tax even though the city council of that municipality has in the past passed a resolution waiving the taxes. So it's one of these sort of stand-offs, and we'd simply like to clarify in the statute that councils of governments are municipal corporations or quasi municipal corporations or state corporations so should be afforded the same tax exempt status that all municipalities are afforded, and it's essentially that.

I'd be happy to answer any questions.

REP. SHARKEY: Thank you very much. Thank you for your persistence on this matter.

Any questions from members of the committee?

Thanks very much, appreciate it.

Ron Kilcoyne followed by Representative Lesser.

REP. KILCOYNE: Good afternoon, my name is Ron Kilcoyne. I'm chief executive officer of the Greater Bridgeport Transit and speaking in support of HB 5523. I'm also authorized speak on behalf of Middletown Transit, the southeast area transit district in New London, the transit for Connecticut and the Sierra Club.

One of the biggest challenges preventing increased use of public transit is the difficulty and act getting to that service, walking to or from bus stops. Frequently a major employer will move into a building situated far from the roadway with an internal circulation system that prevents buses from

HB 5287
HB 5189
HB 5524
HB 5027
SB 377
SB 385
SB 383
SB 393
SB 369

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SB 397
HB 5540
HB 5542
SB 379
SB 392
SB 376
SB 89
HB 5287

TESTIMONY OF

THE CONNECTICUT MESSENGER COURIER ASSOCIATION
THE CONNECTICUT COALITION OF PROPERTY OWNERS
THE GREATER DANBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE MILFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
11:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009
ROOM 2A, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good morning. My name is Marshall R. Collins. I am appearing in my capacity as Counsel for Government Relations for the aforementioned five organizations (the "Organizations"). Collectively they represent nearly than 4,000 employers of approximately 130,000 men and women in Connecticut.

The subject matter before you today is the abandonment of a uniform mill rate for all properties in a municipality. Property tax classification is not a new concept. Municipalities have long sought to tax certain properties at higher rates to protect preferred classes of taxpayers. Prudently, for nearly 30 years, property tax classification schemes, and proposals such as are being heard today, have been rejected.

The Organizations collectively oppose the following bills:

SB 369 AAC A Homestead Exemption For Real Property Taxes. This proposal would reduce the assessment for single family owner-occupied dwellings. To pay for the revenue reduction, other classes of taxpayers would have their tax bills increased.

SB 383 AA Exempting Regional Planning Organizations From Payment of Local Property Taxes. Similarly, by making the regional planning organizations property tax exempt, the revenue decrease would be made up by other taxpayers.

SB 379 AAC Land Value Taxation and SB 392 AA Authorizing Municipalities To Adopt Land Value Taxation and SB 376 AA Authorizing Differentiated Mill Rates In Municipalities. These bills would allow the establishment of a different mill rate for each property class and a higher tax rate for land or land exclusive of buildings. In reality this can function as a disincentive to development. In fact some of the proponents are strong anti-development advocates.

If these bills pass, why would they encourage someone to develop their property if there isn't enough of an economic return from the development project? If the objective is to force a sale from speculators, adding more cost to the project through higher property taxes does not bring the project closer to completion. A sale still would be required and the same economic analysis would have to be made by any prospective or new developer. If a sufficient profit can be made, economic theory and practice demonstrate that the rational economic decision will be made and the property will be developed.

The concept contradicts sound economic theory and practice. Positive economic development rarely occurs during difficult economic times from additional taxation. If implementation of this concept fails to encourage development of such properties, the proposal actually could lead to increased abandonment of undesirable and uneconomic properties.

The following bills all would allow municipalities to levy a local tax on hotels and lodging: **SB 89, and HBs 5287, 5189, 5524 and 5027.** Does anyone think that the lodging industry is booming? Would the additional tax make it easier for hotels and motels to attract customers? Now is not the time to increase the costs for a struggling industry and to further reduce revenues to Connecticut.

SB 377 AA Local Property Tax Relief. This would permit municipalities to impose a local sales tax on big box retailers. Inasmuch as this would increase cost to the customers who utilize such stores, it would burden residents who are not necessarily from that community. Furthermore,

the concept of a different mill rate for certain classes of property has proven to be a disincentive to economic development. If the intent is to keep new such operations from locating in cities and towns, they already have the necessary zoning tools. As a revenue raiser, this concept merely adds to the already high cost of living in Connecticut and disproportionately falls on lower income individuals who tend to frequent the big box retailers.

SBs 385, 393, 397, and HBs 5540 and 5542 allow municipal alternatives to property taxes. The alternatives include taxation of parking spaces, expanded personal property taxes (which targets businesses of all sizes) hotel occupancy, land use taxation, local sales taxes and local income taxes. Once again, higher taxes are not the way to come out of a recession.

Whenever possible, higher costs of doing business (especially taxes) are passed through to consumers, who are also struggling. Where employers cannot pass these costs through their options are to cut expenses, which include payroll and benefits, to reduce operations or close altogether.

This is not the time for Connecticut to increase the costs of living and of doing business. The adverse consequences clearly outweigh any short term benefits.

These concepts all would increase the cost of doing business in Connecticut. Some of the bills would increase those costs more than others. Admittedly, during these difficult times no one wants to increase taxes on individuals, however, it makes no sense to increase costs upon nonresidential taxpayers either, especially when those costs either will be passed through or will result in the loss of jobs. This is not the time to experiment with tax policy.

For these reasons the Organizations oppose the following bills and respectively request that they not be favorably reported:

SB 369, SB 383, SB 379, SB 392, SB 376, SB 89, HB 5287, HB 5189, HB 5524, HB 5027, SB 377, SB 385, SB 393, SB 397, HB 5540 and HB 5542.

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.

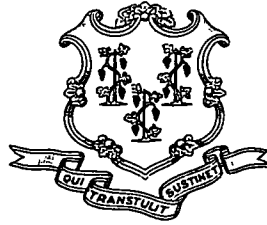
**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT
PART 2
347 - 695**

2009

SENATOR ANDREW M. MAYNARD

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**State of Connecticut****SENATE***Eighteenth District**Assistant Majority Whip**Chair**Veterans' Affairs**Member**Environment**General Law**Program Review & Investigations*

Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I write to urge your support of SB 383 An Act Exempting Regional Planning Organizations from Payment of Property Taxes.

The bill accomplishes one very simply objective. It would afford Council's of Government or Regional Planning Organizations who own property, namely their office space, the same tax exempt status that municipal property is currently afforded. RPO's already are exempt from Federal tax.

Councils of Government are supported by member town's municipal contributions. To require them to pay property taxes back to one of their own members is simply non-sensical.

Currently only one Council of Government or RPO owns its office space. Although the Town Council of the host community has passed an ordinance waiving the tax, the Tax Collector persists in his efforts to collect the tax.

The legislature acted to permit Council's of Government to purchase property in May 2000 (GS 4-124r). Additionally, citing GS 12-81 Sec(2) and 12-8 (4) The Attorney General states that property belonging to the state and a municipal corporation of the state are both tax exempt.

In his letter to the SE CT Council of Government dated March 27, 2008 the Attorney General supports the proposed action to clarify the status of property owned by RPO's and Councils of Government.

By adopting the proposed bill the legislature will achieve the desired clarity. I urge you to support this modest but important measure.

SB 383

State of Connecticut



Hartford

March 27, 2008

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERALRECEIVED
MAR 31 2008
SCCOGJames Butler, Executive Director
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
5 Connecticut Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360

Dear Mr. Butler:

I appreciated your visit and inquiry about the applicability of local property taxes to a statutorily-authorized regional body such as a regional council of governments. I well understand your concern about this important issue.

Quite simply, no statute or other law seems to resolve this issue clearly and unambiguously. As a matter of common sense and good government policy, I agree that property of a regional council of governments, authorized by state statute, should not be subject to municipal taxation. Unfortunately, our current laws regarding municipal taxation apparently do not address this issue, even indirectly. Property belonging to the state, and to a municipal corporation of the state, are both tax-exempt, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 12-81(2) and 12-81(4). A regional council of governments is a political subdivision of the state, and is comprised of several different municipalities. The question is whether those facts qualify such a council as tax exempt. There is simply no clear answer in current law.

As I mentioned in our most recent conversation this week, I would be more than willing to support legislative change necessary to accomplish your goal. I understand that you have previously considered or proposed a measure to resolve this question. I strongly suggest that legislation would be the best way -- perhaps the only way -- to provide a definitive answer to this important question.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rich", written over the typed name.

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

RB/pas

c: Mayor Joseph Jaskiewicz