

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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TO: CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

FROM: DAVID KILBON, CHAIR, CRCOG; FIRST SELECTMAN, EAST GRANBY
LYLE D. WRAY, PHD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CRCOG

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR RAISED BILL NO. 7024, AN ACT CREATING AN
INTRASTATE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is the regional planning organization serving the City of Hartford and the 28 surrounding suburban and rural communities. We are writing in strong support of RB 7024, An Act Creating an Intrastate Mutual Aid System.

The cooperative nature of CRCOG has pushed us to be heavily involved in helping towns work together to achieve cost savings and increase the quality of services. In emergency and non-emergency situations alike, towns are often compelled to help their neighbors. However, many situations make this sharing difficult.

For instance, the Federal Emergency Management Administration will not reimburse costs of emergency assistance between towns unless a written agreement is in place. This bill will eliminate the need for such administrative preparation by establishing a network managed by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

We are also enthusiastic about the clearinghouse function that DEMHS will provide for towns during an emergency. One simple phone call to DEMHS will trigger a response from multiple towns near the emergency site. This saves valuable time in the town experiencing an emergency.

We believe this system is an excellent model to build upon in non-emergency situations. We are currently developing an equipment sharing model for town public works departments that would benefit from a similar infrastructure. By clearly delineating the roles, responsibilities and liabilities of all involved, the emergency mutual aid system will be a great benefit to towns in the CRCOG region and throughout the State of Connecticut.

For further information, please contact Lyle Wray, CRCOG Executive Director, at (860) 522-2217 or lwray@crcog.org.