

From: Craig Baldwin
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2017 8:31 AM
To: 'Tony guglielmo'; 'Rep. Boyd, Pat'
Subject: Letter to Barnes concerning general fund balances

Hello Tony and Pat,

The attached letter describes the impact the Governor's budget plan would have on our tax payers in Pomfret. Please continue to argue against shifting Hartford's budget and tax woes, years in the making, to towns.

I don't see how using state municipal revenues to "level the field" in terms of town mill rates helps to expand business growth. A tax is still a tax regardless of the taxing entity. The large reductions in state grants to towns in one year is also creating hardships for our at risk populations. Pomfret has a growing elderly population who are on fixed incomes. The state imposed 10% increase in Pomfret property taxes is a burden leaving many to make hard choices. I sadly have to report that several people who have good professions and are looking ahead to retirement, are saying they don't see how they can afford to retire in CT and are "looking" around for alternatives. Finally, our small rural towns do not sport the level of services and infrastructure of our urban cities. Very limited services and increasing property taxes will gut small towns. The strategy from Hartford, to take revenue away towns and funnel it to large at risk cities only reduces the attractiveness of rural towns as a place to live and work. How many years of property tax increases can small towns absorb before they are no longer able to sustain their independent municipal status?

Thank you both for your efforts to keep our region viable and a place for professional businesses to locate. I hope that your voices and the many other representatives of small towns across CT will join forces to change the flawed strategy that I am reading about.

All the best,
Craig