



Town of Coventry

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**Re: Raised Bill 5501, An Act Expanding Permissible Uses for Town Aid Roads Grants
Testimony of Lisa Thomas
Chair, Coventry Town Council
Chair, Capitol Region Council of Government Legislative Committee
March 9, 2026**

Chairs Kavros-DeGraw and Rahman, Ranking Memebers Gordon and Haines, Vice Chairs Needleman and Chaffee, Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I write in strong support of Raised Bill 5501 and appreciate this opportunity to provide comment on this critical support for municipalities. Additionally, the bill is consistent with CRCOG's legislative agenda.

This bill expands the permissible uses of Town Aid Road (TAR) grant funds to include the purchase and maintenance of equipment used for highway construction and maintenance. Our municipalities have derived great benefit from bringing TAR funds to our communities for critical transportation infrastructure. In our small town of Coventry, it has allowed us to complete road maintenance and safety projects in a more timely manner **with less burden on local residential property taxes.**

Raised Bill 5501 is a wise measure to ensure that once municipalities undertake TAR supported projects, those improvements are maintained for long lasting benefit.

Equipment such as street sweepers, snow plows, and roadside mowers for vegetation management are costly and often pushed far beyond their lifetimes because we can't afford to replace them. Expanding the use of TAR funds will support upgrades to functioning, more updated equipment. Such equipment will make it possible for our limited DPW staff to more efficiently do their work, and to increase preventative maintenance. Looking at this through a legislative lens, **this also represents a step by the State to protect its own investment of grant dollars in our communities.** This is good policy.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support bill 5501 and the many benefits it will provide.

Respectfully,