



**Atwood Hose Fire Company  
24 Wauregan Road  
Wauregan, CT**

**Serving the Citizens of Wauregan Since 1896**

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications  
1111 Country Club Road  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Re: DSET Docket 13-01

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in my position as fire chief and as the President of the Quinebaug Valley Fire Chiefs Association to express my concern about the proposed DSET Subsidy Revision Proposal and its impact on the regional dispatch center that serves my fire company and the Quinebaug Valley region of Connecticut – Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications.

Talk for PSAP consolidation in Connecticut has been ongoing for several years to no clear end. Now a report funded by your division recommends reduced funding to many of the regional dispatch centers that serve as models of consolidation. How does a formula with that as the result make any sense?

Today, emergency services organizations; fire, police and EMS are being asked to more with less (funding, staffing, equipment, etc.). Now, the very beginning of the emergency responder chain, the PSAP/dispatch center, is being threatened with reduced funding, which can only mean reduced services, staffing and equipment. The proposed subsidy revision would force the municipalities served by the efficient model of regional PSAP to contribute more than they already do just to allow the PSAP to continue to provide the current levels of service. This increase in local funding would have to be passed down to the taxpayers of each town.

The large Regional PSAPs at Litchfield County, Tolland County and Quinebaug Valley serve 30% of Connecticut's towns. For two decades they have done exactly what Connecticut asked by creating large regional 9-1-1 Centers that minimize costs to the municipalities they serve and to the state for providing service to many municipalities through three PSAPs. Why should subsidy funds be diverted from them to smaller, less efficient centers that serve less than half the number of towns and around half the number of residents?

Portions of the DSET/DESPP subsidy revision proposal ignore the significantly greater complexity, capital and operating costs associated with the operation of a regional center serving a large and diverse area compared to the costs of operating a single communication system that serves a larger municipality. The proposal should be rejected in favor of retaining the traditional subsidy mechanism. Don't change the current formula at all. DSET should concentrate its efforts toward studying and implementing some means of consolidating the very small and inefficient PSAPs. The proposal of PA 10-125, passed by both houses of the legislature, would be a good starting point.

I trust that you will give serious consideration to further study and the implementation of a fair and equitable funding formula that allows the regional dispatch centers to continue to serve the citizens of Connecticut in the most efficient means possible. The consequences of underfunding these centers would be extremely detrimental to the regions they serve.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Duval". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Chief Robert F Duval**  
**Atwood Hose Fire Company**  
**President – Quinebaug Valley Fire Chiefs Association**

1cc: Christine Rosati – 44<sup>th</sup> District

1cc: Andrew Maynard - Deputy Majority Leader – Senate District 18