HARWINTON, CONNECTICUT
INCORPORATED 1737

TOWN OF HARWINTON

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March 16, 2015

DSET Docket 13-01
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 have recently become aware of a proposal by the Department of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications to modify the funding formula used to calculate subsidies to the seven regional Public Safety Answering Points in the state of Connecticut. After reviewing the available documentation and discussions with the Executive Director of Litchfield County Dispatch (our regional PSAP), I am writing to communicate my concerns with the proposal.

More than 20 years ago, the town of Harwinton in alignment with the state's strategy on regionalization of PSAPs, and because of our belief that the regional approach is not only more cost effective, but more efficient and offers and improved level of service to the community, we joined Litchfield County Dispatch with many other towns in Northwest Connecticut. This proposed formula seems to deviate from the strategy as it does not support continued regionalization efforts.

Additionally, the new formula is not meant to be a cost-saving initiative, but mere a re-allocation of funds from the three larger regional PSAPs to the four smaller. This is accomplished by removing the "number of municipalities served" from the formula. Again, contrary to the strategy. The new formula focuses only on population and number of 911 emergency calls received by the PSAP. There is a significant flaw in this calculation because it does not consider the total volume of calls for service into the PSAP. Litchfield County Dispatch receives approximately 80,000 calls for service on ten-digit lines into the center. These calls need to be included in the calculation of call volume.

In closing, the current proposal will cause significant hardship on our municipal budget in an already difficult time. I do not support this proposal and hope you will work with us to re-evaluate making proper adjustments to insure the subsidy formula is fair for all municipalities and it is more aligned with the state regionalization strategy.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Criss, First Selectman
PO Box 66, Harwinton, CT 06791