

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Cook, Mayor Carbone Testify in Support of Legislation to Restore Car Tax Funds to Torrington

Ask Appropriations Committee to restore \$1.6 million



(Left to right) Kenneth Flatto, Bridgeport Finance Director, Rep. Jack Hennessy (D-Bridgeport), Torrington Mayor Elinor Carbone, Rep. Michelle Cook (D-Torrington), Rep. Michael D'Agostino (D-Hamden) and Sen. George Logan (R-Hamden) testify in front of the Appropriations Committee

State Rep. Michelle Cook (D-Torrington) and Torrington Mayor Elinor Carbone testified in front of the Appropriations Committee today to ask them to restore \$1,687,556 in state funding owed to Torrington for the loss of motor vehicle tax revenue due to the car tax cap.

Rep. Cook asked the committee to incorporate legislation she previously introduced this year to restore the funding into Appropriations Committee bill [HB 5324](#), An Act Concerning Municipal Funding. Cook's legislation, [HB 5072](#), would have addressed a

collective \$10 million shortfall faced by Torrington, Hamden, and Bridgeport due to a lack of reimbursement from the state.

“This is a significant amount of money for our community. Torrington doesn’t have the financial means to simply let this error slide. The intent of the car tax cap legislation should be honored and the funding restored,” **Rep. Cook** said. “I have asked the Appropriations Committee to include the language from my initial bill to restore funding within the larger municipal aid bill they will be considering. It’s an issue of fairness and of practicality – that \$1.6 million represents teachers’ salaries, infrastructure repairs, and other services that residents will not see unless Torrington is made whole. ”

According to the bipartisan budget passed last year, municipalities with a mill rate over 39 – the state mandated car tax cap for 2018 – are supposed to be reimbursed by the state for the difference between the cap and a higher mill rate. Torrington, Hamden, and Bridgeport have been denied this funding because each went through a property tax revaluation in 2015 or later that was not considered in the motor vehicle tax reimbursement calculation in the budget.

Mayor Carbone wrote in her submitted testimony, “I am here to plead for the consideration of amending this bill to include language for the restoration of the funds required to make the Cities of Torrington, Hamden and Bridgeport whole for the devastating impact of the collective loss of over \$10 million in tax revenue we have had to sustain through no fault of our budget practices.”

Rep. Cook and Mayor Carbone testified jointly along with representatives from Hamden and Bridgeport.

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