

Good afternoon, I am Tim Arsenault, I serve as the town Clerk in Vernon, am co chair of the Vermont Municipal Clerk Treasurer's association legislative committee. I also serve as the board Secretary Treasurer of the Windham Regional Planning and Development Commission.

S 159 is a needed step toward providing additional Government efficiency. From the point of view of my small town, which has nearly tripled in population since 1970, any study needs to answer some basic questions.

What is the minimum amount of law enforcement that should be provided to our towns? In Vernon, we currently have the Windham County Sheriffs office providing 40 hours a week of coverage, with emergencies nights and weekend covered by Vermont state police. We, along with 7 other nearby towns, also hire the sheriffs office for Animal control.

How do we share services for those hard to fill functions, like Lister. How will any change affect the sense of community that so many small towns struggle to preserve.

I am a Vernon native, and was employed as a long time broadcaster in Brattleboro when I ran for Town Clerk in 2016. I was troubled about what the closing of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant would mean for our town. Our towns and cities need to have people providing friendly efficient service when people show up, as that's what helps create a sense of community. How will any changes affect our smaller villages and towns.

How do any changes happen while struggling to keep life here affordable?

In light of the changes to a post Covid 19 Vermont, It's high time this kind of study is done