

Tim Arsenault CVC
Vernon Town Clerk
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H 541 testimony

Thank you for inviting my testimony. For the record, I am Tim Arsenault, the Town Clerk in Vernon and the incoming chair of the Vermont Municipal Clerk Treasurers Association legislative committee.

H 541, which proposes to make whole the education tax for communities hit by this summer's flooding is the right thing to do. My town was not hit by flooding this summer, but many were, and they should be helped. I know that if the situations were reversed, we too would be asking for your help. I would remind you of former President Calvin Coolidge, who in 1928 told a Bennington crowd that our residents would beggar themselves, in the spirit of helping others. I believe this basic value to still be true.

In looking at the bill, I would hope there would be firm timelines provided for the reimbursement would be clear, so the affected communities, and the rest of us would know what to expect when setting local budgets.

I would also ask that we be as frugal as possible in our assistance, as many town select boards, including my own, are taking a second look at their annual budgets with an eye toward trimming before making a final vote.

I applaud the pro active work of the ways and means committee, and hope this bill can be passed in a timely fashion.