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Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 1:42:02 PM
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Subject: H 42

Dear Rep. Michael Marcotte the Government Operations Committee,

I am writing today regarding Bill 42 that you introduced to the legislature.

Let me start by saying that I am very sorry for what the Town of Coventry has gone through. If your Clerk/Treasurer is found to have embezzled, it is inexcusable. Our constituents put their trust in us and that is sacred.

I have been the Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector in the Town of Walden for 15 years. We are a small town with a population of 935. The town has not been able to offer me a competitive salary for most of those years as Clerk/Treasurer. The only way I could stay on was to add the Delinquent Tax Collector position. This has proven to be a good solution for both the town and I.

The bill you have introduced would not fix what happened in Coventry and only punishes the towns who are unable to afford to pay a competitive salary to a Treasurer. If you had a different person for Delinquent Tax Collector in your town, that person still would have turned money over to the Treasurer who seems to be the problem.

I hope you will reconsider this bill. There are many town treasurers who will be affected by this bill and you will be punishing many honest people. In my case, I will be taking such a cut in pay I will need to reevaluate if I can stay on as Clerk/Treasurer.

If a person chooses to be dishonest, they will find a way. We have seen it more and more in the past few years and it effects private as well as public entities.

I appreciate your consideration and hope my letter will influence your decision regarding this bill. I am proud of my service to my town and wish to continue for many years to come.

Respectfully,

Lina Smith
Clerk/Treasurer
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