



Town of Williston Selectboard

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February 21, 2023

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn: Senator Ann Cummings, Chair
Vermont State House, Room 6
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Chairwoman Cummings,

On behalf of the Williston Selectboard, I am writing to voice our formal support of bill S.60 introduced by Senators Chittenden and Ram Hinsdale that is currently being discussed by the Senate Committee on Finance. The adoption of this bill would be very helpful in yearly budgeting and planning to allow municipalities more access to tax data regarding local option tax (LOT) revenues.

We are in full support of this bill, as 16 communities representing 23% percent of the population in VT have access to the LOT, and it is fair that all communities should have this access with approval of their community voters. Additionally, it is important for municipalities to be able to estimate the LOT for revenue projections, and it is helpful and reasonable to allow municipal officials to have the availability to access the information and maintain confidentiality.

Since its adoption in 2002, Williston's LOT on sales, rooms, meals and alcohol has been a critical revenue stream for the community. The LOT receipts account for approximately 25 percent of Williston's annual general fund operating revenue. Williston, as a regional center for commerce and employment, delivers municipal services to a daytime population that far exceeds our evening population. The LOT has enabled Williston to provide municipal services to meet this demand while alleviating the property tax burden for residents. Forecasting the LOT revenue for annual budgeting is an exercise by the Town that uses the revenue from prior years to help inform a conservative revenue projection for the coming fiscal year. The additional information proposed in S.60 to assist in the revenue forecast during the Town's budget process would be welcomed by the Williston Selectboard and Town Manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Macaig".

Terry Macaig, Chair
Williston Selectboard