



**Town of Little Compton
Office of the Council President
Post Office Box 226
Little Compton, Rhode Island 02837**

6 July 2017

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Governor
State of Rhode Island
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Raimondo:

The General Assembly has passed legislation that would automatically extend collective bargaining agreements for municipal employees and teachers after expiration. Because it would unnecessarily limit the ability of local officials to negotiate in the best interests of taxpayers, I respectfully request that you veto the perpetual contracts bill.

In the Town of Little Compton, we have had in place in all three municipal contracts for more than twenty years the following closing clause (**emphasis added**):

“All provisions of this Agreement shall go into effect on _____ and extend to _____ and thereafter remain in effect from year to year **unless either party hereto at least 120 days prior to the last day in which money can be appropriated by the Town gives written notice to the other party of its intention to terminate or amend this Agreement.**”

Both parties to each agreement have repeatedly concurred in such a provision at each contract negotiation. The result has been a process free of division and delay, and which emphasizes mutual development of a working relationship.

Your veto would be an endorsement of open and balanced government at the local level.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Mushen
Town Council President