

TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD
OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



July 5, 2017

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Governor of the State of Rhode Island
State House Room 222
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H-5593 Sub A

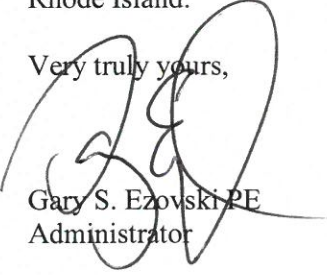
Dear Governor Raimondo:

It is with great concern that I write today over the passage of H-5593 Sub A in the House and Senate. It is confounding to think that such a bill could make it through to your desk. Your veto is the only hope that we in municipal leadership positions have for a reprieve from the disadvantage that this legislation would present to anyone with responsibility for negotiating municipal contracts.

Isn't this just another step by special interests to gain one more advantage from the legislative process that these same special interests have been unable to gain through the local bargaining process? Isn't it once again a play to limit local management and bargaining through the uneven playing field that is our legislature?

All that we in leadership at the local municipal level can plead for at this point is that you will veto the legislation. I think many of us agree that local spending must be controlled and clearly, the biggest single expense we have in every local budget is for personnel. Should this legislation become law our collective ability to resist higher and higher cost of employment will again be damaged. Please don't become part of this flawed concept which will guarantee increases in the cost of local government. Please use your veto to push this back. I hope you will not allow perpetual contracts to become the new standard for Rhode Island.

Very truly yours,


Gary S. Ezovski PE
Administrator

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