



Town of Millis – Finance Committee
900 Main Street
Millis, MA 02054

April 2, 2014

Representative David P. Linsky
State House
Room #146
Boston, MA 02133

Dear State Representative David P. Linsky,

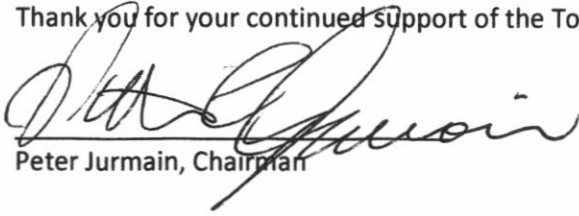
We, the Finance Committee for the Town of Millis, are writing to you to express our concern regarding the substantial decrease in State aid that is being made available to our community. As you know, the Finance Committee is responsible for making budget recommendations to our residents at the annual Town Meeting. However, over the last several years, the relative amount of aid being received by the Town has diminished while our State and Federal financial obligations have continued to increase. This year's governor's budget, which was approved by the Commonwealth's legislature, continues this trend of diminished aid even while State revenues are increasing. Our unfunded and underfunded mandates must still be met with yet further reduced levels of State aid, which is counter to what our community was led to believe would occur when these programs were originally passed by the legislature. Local aid, Chapter 70 and Chapter 90 funds all continue to trend to slower growth.

We believe that the Massachusetts Legislature must reverse some of their recent decisions regarding the disposition of State aid to local communities or provide for relief by rescinding some of the local mandates previously passed. Even with very careful budget planning, which Millis prides itself in doing, it is impossible to meet our continuing financial commitments if the State does not provide adequate funding. The current State funding level does not correspond to the combination of State mandates and local costs to even maintain a level funded service budget.

As a result, we will be forced to decrease or curtail services to our community, reduce funding of the schools' needs and/or raise additional taxes to meet these underfunded obligations imposed upon us by the State. All of our remaining discretionary funding will be consumed by these state imposed obligations if the additional funding that was expected from the Commonwealth is not forthcoming.

We would appreciate your support in asking the legislature to revisit their decision in support of the Governor's budget and to return a greater portion of the State revenues to the local communities. Otherwise, we will be forced to make substantial service cuts in our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Town of Millis,



Peter Jurmain, Chairman



Susan Vecchi, Vice-Chairman



Rich Molloy, Clerk



Doug Riley, Member



Craig Schultze, Member