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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
280 VICTORY HIGHWAY
WEST GREENWICH
RHODE ISLAND 02817

The Honorable Anastasia Williams
Chair, House Labor Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

February 9, 2021

I am writing on behalf of the West Greenwich Town Council to voice opposition to the proposed addition of police and fire contracts to the Evergreen Contract Law. West Greenwich is one of twenty Rhode Island communities legally challenging the current law, as we strongly feel that it violates the Rhode Island Constitutions' contract clause and Home Rule Provision.

Cities and towns across the state in bipartisan fashion are united in opposing the current law guaranteeing lifetime contracts which are being challenged in court. The lawsuit now being argued should be settled before any amendments or changes are made to the current law.

In this uncertain economic time, with rising health care cost and pension liabilities, communities can ill afford the uncertainty of Evergreen contracts. The Evergreen Law has taken away the bargaining ability of cities and towns to protect its taxpayers from unsustainable tax increases and could lower municipal credit ratings. Rhode Islanders already pay the sixth highest property taxes in the country and his bill will make things worse. We respectfully ask that this proposed new legislation be defeated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin A. Breene', is written over the printed name.

Kevin A. Breene
Town Administrator