



TOWN OF TEMPLETON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
160 Patriots Road ~ P.O. Box 620
EAST TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01438
TEL: (978) 894-2755

His Excellency, Charles Baker
State House, Room 280
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Ann M. Gobi
State House, Room 513
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Susannah Whipps
State House, Room 540
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Templeton's Education Funding Issues

Dear Governor Baker, Senator Gobi and Representative Whipps;

I write to you today as there is an emergency in my Town of Templeton. We are currently locked in a bitter fiscal crisis within our community and our regional school district, the Narragansett Regional School District (NRSD). At a time when we should be proud that we are opening a brand-new \$50 million dollar Elementary School, with the help of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), we are under a cloud of fiscal uncertainty and potential loss of critical and basic services.

We have a \$988,000 deficit in the District budget that failed an override when we asked the people to fund this deficit from tax appropriation. The School District responded by making district configuration changes, school choice changes and worse, reductions to staff in order to reduce their budget. The resulting certified number has left Templeton torn and afraid of the impact on the general operating fund of the town. We face dramatic cuts to a budget we have worked very hard to balance. We face losses to our public safety sector (zero police officers and firefighters/EMTs during many hours of the day), our public works department (where we are already in rough shape), and senior services (changing full-time to part time in a very active center).

Our fiscal crisis is not because of our poor management, but rather in the lack of money from a failed state-promise of transportation funding and an antiquated formula for providing state education aid (Chapter 70). To be clear, our town has had a spectacular financial comeback and recently cleared years of un-auditable books and recently earned back our solid bond rating from Moody's. We also have been diligently working to improve our infrastructure and long range plan, carrying an appropriate, but larger amount of debt than we like. **Our problem comes from inaction on Beacon Hill.** We desperately ask for your immediate attention and assurance in solving this widespread issue that has crippled not only our community's ability to function properly, but many Central and Western Massachusetts Towns and School Districts.

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name

Email Address

Street (& P.O. Box)

City, State & Zip Code

Daytime Phone Number