

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



February 11, 2023

Esteemed Chairs Lopes and Gresko,
Members of the Environment Committee:

The Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 5400, *An Act Concerning the Preservation of Stone Walls in the State*.

From the current language, it is not clear whether the bill is intended only to apply to freestanding, colonial farm stone walls or to all walls made of stone. The latter could include retaining walls, building foundations and facades, chimney breasts, bridge parapets, subdivision name signs, and other structures, many of which may not have the same aesthetic value or cultural significance as the historic fieldstone walls that typify the Connecticut landscape.

Your Committee may wish to **consider adding language to clarify the definition of a “stone wall”** for the purposes of this bill.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francis Pickering". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Francis R. Pickering
Executive Director