



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 14, 2019

Dr. Steven Dillingham
Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Mr. Dillingham:

On behalf of Governor Lamont, I am formally requesting your approval of the criteria change proposal initiated by Connecticut's nine regional Councils of Governments (COGs) in 2017, making planning regions, which share the same boundaries as the COGs, the statistical equivalent of counties in Connecticut.

I recognize that the Census Bureau places the highest priority on the quality and consistency of its data, and that states and counties are the major legally-defined political and administrative units of the United States. Although Connecticut's eight counties have long provided a stable geographic unit for reporting Census data, they have not served a functional role since county government was abolished in 1960. Planning regions can provide a more meaningful geographic unit for reporting data, since the data would be aligned with the municipalities that comprise the governance framework for each region (i.e., the COGs).

Therefore, I believe this requested change in Census geographic unit from county to planning region is both appropriate for and complementary to Connecticut's strong Home Rule tradition. Each municipality within a designated planning region is entitled to membership in the region's COG upon adoption of an ordinance by its legislative body. The chief elected official of each member municipality is then provided a vote on all COG matters. By reporting Census data along COG boundaries, member municipalities will be in a better position to plan and act collaboratively and strategically on the efficient delivery of services, bulk purchasing, and other matters of practical interest.

While COGs do not have taxing authority, they are authorized under State law to assess dues on their member municipalities and to accept other sources of public and private assistance for the purpose of providing regional and shared services. Section 8-31b(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes states that "Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by each regional council of governments...and may include, without limitation, the following services: (1) Engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning;

(20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation.” COGs are already authorized under State law “to accept or participate in any grant, donation or program made available to counties by any other governmental or private entity.” This criteria change would make COGs eligible to apply for federal grant programs open to counties, and enable Connecticut to further leverage federal funds.

Under State law, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (CT-OPM) has the sole authority to designate or re-designate the boundaries of planning regions in Connecticut. CT-OPM also serves as the central data authority for the State. As Secretary, I can fully assure you of CT-OPM’s commitment to maintaining stable boundaries of planning regions going forward.

Attached is a letter from the Census State Data Center that expresses the support of the broader data user community for this proposed criteria change. If the Census Bureau should approve Connecticut’s request, I am confident that COGs will be a reliable partner in making the 2020 Census process a success. Going forward, COGs will also be in a better position to help leverage federal funds for the benefit of their member municipalities and the State, in addition to providing robust and meaningful analyses of Census statistical data that can lead to more efficient and effective delivery of public services.

Please contact my Chief Data Officer, Tyler Kleykamp, at (860) 418-6302 or Tyler.Kleykamp@ct.gov, if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,



Melissa N. McCaw
Secretary

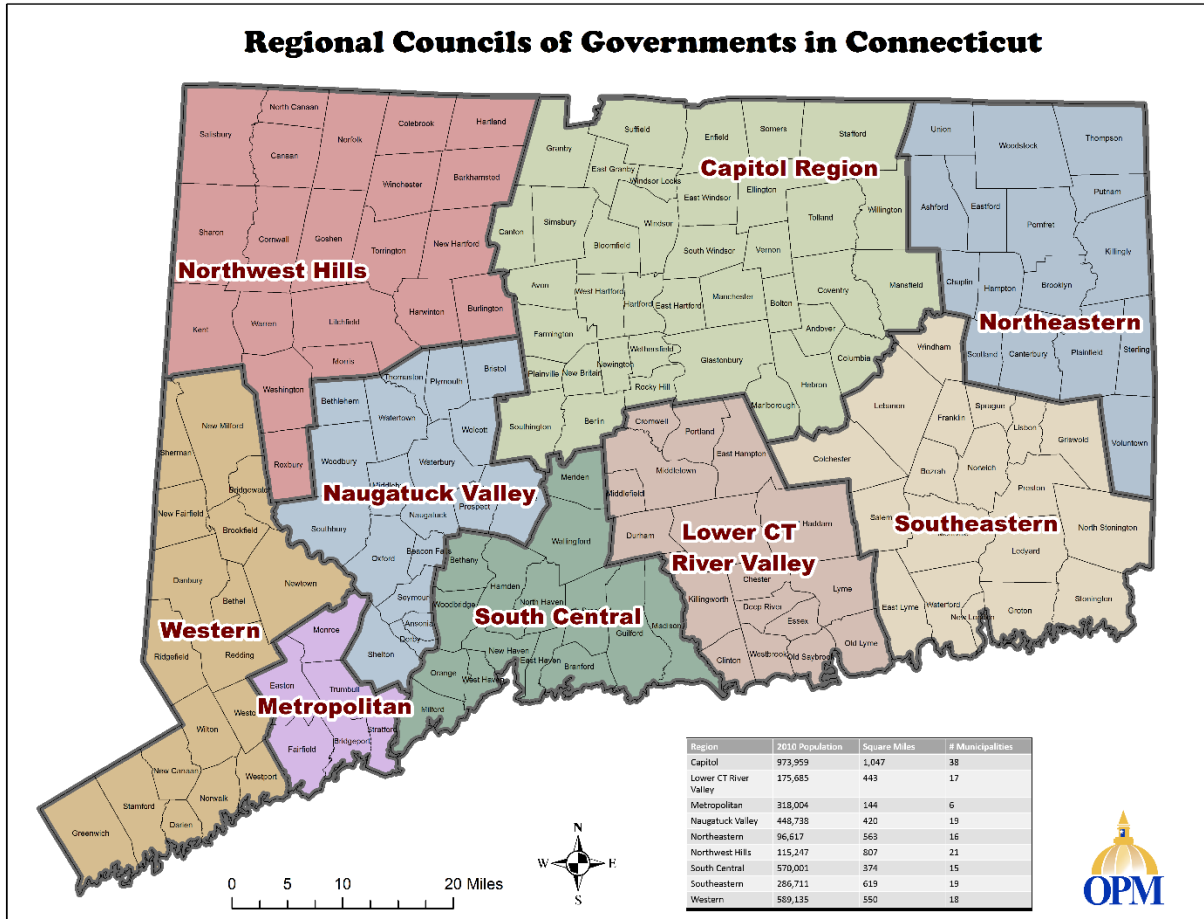
- Attachment:
- 1) Map of CT’s 9 Planning Regions and associated Councils of Governments
 - 2) List of Municipalities and Populations by Planning Region and County
 - 3) Letter of Support from the Census State Data Center
 - 4) Relevant Connecticut General Statutes

Cc:

Governor Ned Lamont	Deirdre Bishop, U.S. Census Bureau - Geography Division
Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz	Michael Ratcliffe, U.S. Census Bureau - Geography Division
U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal	Karen Battle, U.S. Census Bureau - Population Division
U.S. Senator Chris Murphy	James Fitzsimmons, U.S. Census Bureau – Population Division
Rep. John Larson, 1 st Congressional District	Lyle Wray, CRCOG
Rep. Joe Courtney, 2 nd Congressional District	Matt Fulda, MetroCOG
Rep. Rose DeLauro, 3 rd Congressional District	Sam Gold, RiverCOG
Rep. Jim Himes, 4 th Congressional District	Rick Dunne, NVCOG
Rep. Jahana Hayes, 5 th Congressional District	John Filchak, NECCOG
Sen. Martin M. Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore	Richard Lynn, NHCOG
Sen. Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader	Carl Amento, SCRCOG
Sen. Leonard A. Fasano, Senate Minority Leader	James S. Butler, SCCOG
Rep Joe Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House	Francis Pickering, WestCOG
Rep. Matthew Ritter, House Majority Leader	Joe DeLong, CT Conference of Municipalities
Rep. Themis Klarides, House Minority Leader	Betsy Gara, CT Council of Small Towns
Jeffrey Beckham, CT-OPM	CT Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
Tyler Kleykamp, CT-OPM	CT State Library
Michelle Riordan-Nold, CT Data Collaborative	

Attachment 1

Map of CT's 9 Planning Regions and associated Councils of Governments



Planning Region Name

Capitol Planning Region

Greater Bridgeport Planning Region

Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region

Naugatuck Valley Planning Region

Northeastern Connecticut Planning Region

Northwest Hills Planning Region

South Central Connecticut Planning Region

Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region

Western Connecticut Planning Region

COG Name

Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG)

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG)

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG)

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG)

Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG)

South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG)

Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)

Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG)

Page intentionally left blank.

Attachment 2

List of Municipalities and Populations by Planning Region and County

Town #	Town Name	2010 Population	Planning Region	County
1	Andover	3,303	Capitol	Tolland
4	Avon	18,098	Capitol	Hartford
7	Berlin	19,866	Capitol	Hartford
11	Bloomfield	20,486	Capitol	Hartford
12	Bolton	4,980	Capitol	Tolland
23	Canton	10,292	Capitol	Hartford
30	Columbia	5,485	Capitol	Tolland
32	Coventry	12,435	Capitol	Tolland
40	East Granby	5,148	Capitol	Hartford
43	East Hartford	51,252	Capitol	Hartford
47	East Windsor	11,162	Capitol	Hartford
48	Ellington	15,602	Capitol	Tolland
49	Enfield	44,654	Capitol	Hartford
52	Farmington	25,340	Capitol	Hartford
54	Glastonbury	34,427	Capitol	Hartford
56	Granby	11,282	Capitol	Hartford
64	Hartford	124,775	Capitol	Hartford
67	Hebron	9,686	Capitol	Tolland
77	Manchester	58,241	Capitol	Hartford
78	Mansfield	26,543	Capitol	Tolland
79	Marlborough	6,404	Capitol	Hartford
89	New Britain	73,206	Capitol	Hartford
94	Newington	30,562	Capitol	Hartford
110	Plainville	17,716	Capitol	Hartford
119	Rocky Hill	19,709	Capitol	Hartford
128	Simsbury	23,511	Capitol	Hartford
129	Somers	11,444	Capitol	Tolland
132	South Windsor	25,709	Capitol	Hartford
131	Southington	43,069	Capitol	Hartford
134	Stafford	12,087	Capitol	Tolland
139	Suffield	15,735	Capitol	Hartford
142	Tolland	15,052	Capitol	Tolland
146	Vernon	29,179	Capitol	Tolland
155	West Hartford	63,268	Capitol	Hartford
159	Wethersfield	26,668	Capitol	Hartford

160	Willington	6,041	Capitol	Tolland
164	Windsor	29,044	Capitol	Hartford
165	Windsor Locks	12,498	Capitol	Hartford
15	Bridgeport	144,229	Greater Bridgeport	Fairfield
46	Easton	7,490	Greater Bridgeport	Fairfield
51	Fairfield	59,404	Greater Bridgeport	Fairfield
85	Monroe	19,479	Greater Bridgeport	Fairfield
138	Stratford	51,384	Greater Bridgeport	Fairfield
144	Trumbull	36,018	Greater Bridgeport	Fairfield
26	Chester	3,994	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
27	Clinton	13,260	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
33	Cromwell	14,005	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
36	Deep River	4,629	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
38	Durham	7,388	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
41	East Haddam	9,126	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
42	East Hampton	12,959	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
50	Essex	6,683	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
61	Haddam	8,346	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
70	Killingworth	6,525	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
75	Lyme	2,406	Lower CT River Valley	New London
82	Middlefield	4,425	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
83	Middletown	47,648	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
105	Old Lyme	7,603	Lower CT River Valley	New London
106	Old Saybrook	10,242	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
113	Portland	9,508	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
154	Westbrook	6,938	Lower CT River Valley	Middlesex
2	Ansonia	19,249	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
6	Beacon Falls	6,049	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
10	Bethlehem	3,607	Naugatuck Valley	Litchfield
17	Bristol	60,477	Naugatuck Valley	Hartford
25	Cheshire	29,261	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
37	Derby	12,902	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
81	Middlebury	7,575	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
88	Naugatuck	31,862	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
108	Oxford	12,683	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
111	Plymouth	12,243	Naugatuck Valley	Litchfield
115	Prospect	9,405	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
124	Seymour	16,540	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
126	Shelton	39,559	Naugatuck Valley	Fairfield
130	Southbury	19,904	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
140	Thomaston	7,887	Naugatuck Valley	Litchfield

151	Waterbury	110,366	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
153	Watertown	22,514	Naugatuck Valley	Litchfield
166	Wolcott	16,680	Naugatuck Valley	New Haven
168	Woodbury	9,975	Naugatuck Valley	Litchfield
3	Ashford	4,317	Northeastern CT	Windham
19	Brooklyn	8,210	Northeastern CT	Windham
22	Canterbury	5,132	Northeastern CT	Windham
24	Chaplin	2,305	Northeastern CT	Windham
39	Eastford	1,749	Northeastern CT	Windham
63	Hampton	1,863	Northeastern CT	Windham
69	Killingly	17,370	Northeastern CT	Windham
109	Plainfield	15,405	Northeastern CT	Windham
112	Pomfret	4,247	Northeastern CT	Windham
116	Putnam	9,584	Northeastern CT	Windham
123	Scotland	1,726	Northeastern CT	Windham
136	Sterling	3,830	Northeastern CT	Windham
141	Thompson	9,458	Northeastern CT	Windham
145	Union	854	Northeastern CT	Tolland
147	Voluntown	2,603	Northeastern CT	New London
169	Woodstock	7,964	Northeastern CT	Windham
5	Barkhamsted	3,799	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
20	Burlington	9,301	Northwest Hills	Hartford
21	Canaan	1,234	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
29	Colebrook	1,485	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
31	Cornwall	1,420	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
55	Goshen	2,976	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
65	Hartland	2,114	Northwest Hills	Hartford
66	Harwinton	5,642	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
68	Kent	2,979	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
74	Litchfield	8,466	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
87	Morris	2,388	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
92	New Hartford	6,970	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
98	Norfolk	1,709	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
100	North Canaan	3,315	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
120	Roxbury	2,262	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
122	Salisbury	3,741	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
125	Sharon	2,782	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
143	Torrington	36,383	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
149	Warren	1,461	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
150	Washington	3,578	Northwest Hills	Litchfield
162	Winchester	11,242	Northwest Hills	Litchfield

8	Bethany	5,563	South Central CT	New Haven
14	Branford	28,026	South Central CT	New Haven
44	East Haven	29,257	South Central CT	New Haven
60	Guilford	22,375	South Central CT	New Haven
62	Hamden	60,960	South Central CT	New Haven
76	Madison	18,269	South Central CT	New Haven
80	Meriden	60,868	South Central CT	New Haven
84	Milford	52,759	South Central CT	New Haven
93	New Haven	129,779	South Central CT	New Haven
99	North Branford	14,407	South Central CT	New Haven
101	North Haven	24,093	South Central CT	New Haven
107	Orange	13,956	South Central CT	New Haven
148	Wallingford	45,135	South Central CT	New Haven
156	West Haven	55,564	South Central CT	New Haven
167	Woodbridge	8,990	South Central CT	New Haven
13	Bozrah	2,627	Southeastern CT	New London
28	Colchester	16,068	Southeastern CT	New London
45	East Lyme	19,159	Southeastern CT	New London
53	Franklin	1,922	Southeastern CT	New London
58	Griswold	11,951	Southeastern CT	New London
59	Groton	40,115	Southeastern CT	New London
71	Lebanon	7,308	Southeastern CT	New London
72	Ledyard	15,051	Southeastern CT	New London
73	Lisbon	4,338	Southeastern CT	New London
86	Montville	19,571	Southeastern CT	New London
95	New London	27,620	Southeastern CT	New London
102	North Stonington	5,297	Southeastern CT	New London
104	Norwich	40,493	Southeastern CT	New London
114	Preston	4,726	Southeastern CT	New London
121	Salem	4,151	Southeastern CT	New London
133	Sprague	2,984	Southeastern CT	New London
137	Stonington	18,545	Southeastern CT	New London
152	Waterford	19,517	Southeastern CT	New London
163	Windham	25,268	Southeastern CT	Windham
9	Bethel	18,584	Western CT	Fairfield
16	Bridgewater	1,727	Western CT	Litchfield
18	Brookfield	16,452	Western CT	Fairfield
34	Danbury	80,893	Western CT	Fairfield
35	Darien	20,732	Western CT	Fairfield
57	Greenwich	61,171	Western CT	Fairfield
90	New Canaan	19,738	Western CT	Fairfield

91	New Fairfield	13,881	Western CT	Fairfield
96	New Milford	28,142	Western CT	Litchfield
97	Newtown	27,560	Western CT	Fairfield
103	Norwalk	85,603	Western CT	Fairfield
117	Redding	9,158	Western CT	Fairfield
118	Ridgefield	24,638	Western CT	Fairfield
127	Sherman	3,581	Western CT	Fairfield
135	Stamford	122,643	Western CT	Fairfield
157	Weston	10,179	Western CT	Fairfield
158	Westport	26,391	Western CT	Fairfield
161	Wilton	18,062	Western CT	Fairfield

Page intentionally left blank.

Attachment 3

Letter of Support from the Census Data Center



February 7, 2019

Deirdre Bishop
Chief
Geography Division
U.S. Census Bureau

As the lead Census State Data Center for the State of Connecticut, the CT Data Collaborative supports the request by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management to designate the state's 9 regional Councils of Government (COGs) as County equivalents. In Connecticut, municipalities are the primary legal divisions of the state, and generally represent the most statistically significant geographic unit within the state. Further, the vast majority of data within the state are typically collected at, or are capable of being reported at, the municipal level. This gives the state broad flexibility to further aggregate data based on any geographic hierarchy that is based on municipalities. Thus, using the COGs as statistically equivalent areas to Counties in Connecticut would minimally impact data users across the state.

We believe this change would be more beneficial to the broader data user community in the state, as the COGs represent a more meaningful geographic hierarchy than the current county boundaries. Thank you for your consideration of the State's request, and feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michelle Riordan-Nold'.

Michelle Riordan-Nold, Executive Director CT Data Collaborative

cc: Tyler Kleykamp, Chief Data Officer

Page intentionally left blank.

Attachment 4

Relevant Connecticut General Statutes

Sec. 4-124i. Regional councils of governments. Definitions. As used in sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive:

- (1) "Planning region" means a planning region of the state as defined or redefined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his designee under the provisions of section 16a-4a;
- (2) "Chief elected official" means the highest ranking elected governmental official of any town, city or borough within the state;
- (3) "Elected official" means any selectman, mayor, alderman, or member of a common council or other similar legislative body of any town or city, or warden or burgess of any borough;
- (4) "Council" means a regional council of governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive;
- (5) "Member" means any town, city or borough within a planning region of the state having become a member of a regional council of governments in accordance with sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive.

Sec. 4-124j. Creation. Membership. Withdrawal. Within any planning region of the state a regional council of governments may be created by the adoption of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, by ordinance of the legislative bodies of not less than sixty per cent of all towns, cities and boroughs within such planning region entitled to membership on such council as hereinafter provided. All towns, cities and boroughs within a planning region shall be entitled to membership on such council, including any city or borough with boundaries not coterminous with the boundaries of the town in which it is located. Any nonmember town, city or borough entitled to membership may join the council by the adoption of said sections by ordinance of its legislative body. Any member town, city or borough may withdraw from the council by adoption of an appropriate ordinance of its legislative body to become effective on the date of such adoption; provided, however, that any such withdrawing member shall be obligated to pay its pro rata share of expenses of operation and pro rata share of funds committed by the council to active programs as of such date of withdrawal.

Sec. 4-124k. Representatives of members. Each member of a regional council of governments shall be entitled to one representative on the council who shall be the chief elected official of such member, or in the absence of any such chief elected official, an elected official appointed in the manner provided by ordinance of the legislative body of such member. Each representative of a member shall be entitled to one vote in the affairs of such council.

Sec. 4-124n. Bylaws. Officers. Committees. Meetings. A regional council of governments shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of its business and shall annually elect from among the representatives to the

council a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, who shall be bonded, and such other officers as may be designated or permitted in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for alternate representatives of the council to attend and vote at any meeting in place of absent representatives and may provide for the organization of a regional planning commission. No representative shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. The bylaws shall provide for an executive committee of the council and an executive committee of the regional planning commission and may provide for additional committees including nonvoting advisory committees. Meetings of the council shall be called by the chairman or as the bylaws shall otherwise provide and minutes of all meetings of the council, its committees and other official actions shall be filed in the office of the council and shall be of public record.

Sec. 4-124p. Receipt of funds. Dues. Contracts. Audits. Annual report. Each regional council of governments established under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, is authorized to receive for its own use and purposes any funds from any source including the state and federal governments and including bequests, gifts and contributions made by any individual, corporation or association. Any town, city or borough participating in a regional council of governments shall annually appropriate funds for the expenses of such council in the performance of its purposes. Such funds shall be appropriated and paid in accordance with a dues formula established by the regional council of governments. Such council may withhold any services it deems advisable from any town, city or borough which has failed to pay such dues. Within the amount so received, a council may engage employees, and contract with professional consultants, municipalities, the state and the federal governments, other regional councils of governments and other intertown, regional or metropolitan agencies, or with any one or more of them, and may enter into contracts from time to time to carry out its purposes. Any such contract shall be approved by action of the regional council of governments in a manner prescribed by the council. The accounts of any regional council of governments shall be subject to an annual audit under the provisions of chapter 111 and such council shall file an annual report with the clerks of its member towns, cities or boroughs, with planning commissions, if any, of members, and with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his designee.

Sec. 8-31b. Restructure of regional planning agencies and regional councils of elected officials into regional councils of governments. (a) On or before January 1, 2015, each regional planning agency created pursuant to sections 8-31a to 8-37a, inclusive, of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, and each regional council of elected officials created pursuant to sections 4-124c to 4-124h, inclusive, shall be restructured to form a regional council of governments as provided in section 4-124j.

(b) A regional council of governments may accept or participate in any grant, donation or program available to any political subdivision of the state and may also accept or participate in any grant, donation or program made available to counties by any other governmental or private entity. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special or public act, any political subdivision of the state may enter into an agreement with a regional council of governments to perform jointly or to provide, alone or in cooperation with any other entity, any service, activity or undertaking that the political subdivision is authorized by law to perform. A regional council of governments established pursuant to this section

may administer and provide regional services to municipalities and may delegate such authority to subregional groups of such municipalities. Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by each regional council of governments, except as provided in subsection (b) of section 9-229 and section 9-229b, and may include, without limitation, the following services: (1) Engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning; (20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation.

Sec. 8-35a. Regional plan of conservation and development. Assistance to municipalities or other public agencies. (a) At least once every ten years, each regional council of governments shall make a plan of conservation and development for its area of operation, showing its recommendations for the general use of the area including land use, housing, principal highways and freeways, bridges, airports, parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, schools, public institutions, public utilities, agriculture and such other matters as, in the opinion of the council, will be beneficial to the area. Any regional plan so developed shall be based on studies of physical, social, economic and governmental conditions and trends and shall be designed to promote with the greatest efficiency and economy the coordinated development of its area of operation and the general welfare and prosperity of its people. Such plan may encourage energy-efficient patterns of development, the use of solar and other renewable forms of energy, and energy conservation. Such plan shall be designed to promote abatement of the pollution of the waters and air of the region. Such plan shall consider the need for technology infrastructure in the region. The regional plan shall identify areas where it is feasible and prudent (1) to have compact, transit accessible, pedestrian-oriented mixed use development patterns and land reuse, and (2) to promote such development patterns and land reuse and shall note any inconsistencies with the following growth management principles: (A) Redevelopment and revitalization of regional centers and areas of mixed land uses with existing or planned physical infrastructure; (B) expansion of housing opportunities and design choices to accommodate a variety of household types and needs; (C) concentration of development around transportation nodes and along major transportation corridors to support the viability of transportation options and land reuse; (D) conservation and restoration of the natural environment, cultural and historical resources and traditional rural lands; (E) protection of environmental assets critical to public health and safety; and (F) integration of planning across all levels of government to address issues on a local, regional and state-wide basis. The plan of each region contiguous to Long Island Sound shall be designed to reduce hypoxia, pathogens, toxic contaminants and floatable debris in Long Island Sound.

(b) Before adopting the regional plan of conservation and development or any part thereof or amendment thereto the regional council of governments shall hold at least one public hearing thereon, notice of the time, place and subject of which shall be given in writing to the chief executive officer and planning commission, where one exists, of each member town, city or borough. Notice of the time, place and subject of such hearing shall be published once in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the region. Such notices shall be given not more than twenty days or less than ten days before such hearing. At least sixty-five days before the public hearing the regional council of governments shall post

the plan on the Internet web site of the council, if any, and submit the plan to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for findings in the form of comments and recommendations. By October 1, 2011, the secretary shall establish, by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, criteria for such findings which shall include procedures for a uniform review of regional plans of conservation and development to determine if a proposed regional plan of conservation and development is not inconsistent with the state plan of conservation and development and the state economic strategic plan. The regional council of governments shall note on the record any inconsistency with the state plan of conservation and development and the reasons for such inconsistency. Adoption of the plan or part thereof or amendment thereto shall be made by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the representatives on the council. The plan shall be posted on the Internet web site of the council, if any, and a copy of the plan or of any amendments thereto, signed by the chairman of the council, shall be transmitted to the chief executive officers, the town, city or borough clerks, as the case may be, and to planning commissions, if any, in member towns, cities or boroughs, and to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his or her designee. The regional council of governments shall notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management of any inconsistency with the state plan of conservation and development and the reasons therefor.

(c) The regional council of governments shall assist municipalities within its region and state agencies and may assist other public and private agencies in developing and carrying out any regional plan or plans of such council. The regional council of governments may provide administrative, management, technical or planning assistance to municipalities within its region and other public agencies under such terms as it may determine, provided, prior to entering into an agreement for assistance to any municipality or other public agency, the regional council of governments shall have adopted a policy governing such assistance. The regional council of governments may be compensated by the municipality or other public agency with which an agreement for assistance has been made for all or part of the cost of such assistance.

Sec. 16a-4a. Office of Policy and Management. Duties and powers. The Office of Policy and Management shall:

(1) Formulate and prepare state-wide or interregional plans for the physical, social and economic development of the state. Such plans may be prepared jointly or in consultation with other state, interstate, federal, regional or local agencies. Such plans may include, but need not be limited to, (A) demographic projections, (B) economic projections, (C) land use and water considerations, (D) transportation requirements, (E) environmental considerations, (F) energy capabilities and requirements, (G) public facilities, (H) labor needs and skills, (I) educational objectives, (J) housing needs, and (K) health needs;

(2) Receive for review, information and recommendations, plans proposed by any state agency acting alone or jointly that has among its duties planning responsibilities relating to those considerations set forth in subdivision (1) of this section or similar subjects;

(3) Coordinate regional and state planning activities and accomplish such planning review activities as may be necessary;

- (4) Designate or redesignate logical planning regions within the state in accordance with section 16a-4c;
- (5) Provide for technical aid and the administration of financial assistance to any regional council of governments organized under sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the secretary;
- (6) Accept from any source funds, revenue or other consideration available to this state for interstate, state, regional, interregional or area planning activities or projects and provide for the administration of such funds, revenues or other consideration;
- (7) Make available to the public, for a reasonable fee, all reports, testing results and other material developed or procured as a result of activities authorized by this section, section 16a-14 and section 16a-14b; and
- (8) Provide technical assistance to municipalities that want to aggregate electric generation services.

Sec. 16a-4b. Municipalities may petition for redesignation of planning region. Procedure. Any town, city or borough which has been included in any planning region as designated or defined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his predecessor, under the provisions of subsection (4) of section 16a-4a, may petition, upon a vote of its legislative body, the secretary for a redefinition or redesignation as part of a different planning region. The secretary shall determine the time and place for a hearing upon such petition and shall give notice thereof. In determining the appropriateness of such redesignation, the secretary shall consider, among other factors, whether or not the services that such petitioner needs can be better or more logically provided by a planning region other than the one to which it has been previously assigned.

Sec. 16a-4c. Redesignation of planning regions by the secretary. Procedure. Voluntary consolidation. (a) On or before January 1, 2014, and at least every twenty years thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, within available appropriations, and in consultation with regional planning organizations, as defined in section 4-124i, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the Commissioner of Transportation and the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development, shall conduct an analysis of the boundaries of logical planning regions designated or redesignated under section 16a-4a. As part of such analysis, the secretary shall evaluate opportunities for coordinated planning and the regional delivery of state and local services. Such analysis shall include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of (1) economic regions, including regional economic development districts established pursuant to chapter 588ff; (2) comprehensive economic development strategies developed by such regional economic development districts; (3) labor market areas and workforce investment regions; (4) natural boundaries, including watersheds, coastlines, ecosystems and habitats; (5) relationships between urban, suburban and rural areas, including central cities and areas outside of the state; (6) census and other demographic information, including areas in the state designated by the United States Census Bureau as urbanized areas and urbanized clusters; (7) political boundaries, including municipal boundaries and congressional, senate and assembly districts; (8) transportation corridors, connectivity and boundaries, including the

boundaries of metropolitan planning agencies; (9) current federal, state and municipal service delivery regions, including, but not limited to, regions established to provide emergency, health, transportation or human services; and (10) the current capacity of each regional planning organization to deliver diverse state and local services and to comply with the requirements of any relevant federal transportation authorizing acts. Such analysis shall also establish a minimum size for logical planning areas that takes into consideration the number of municipalities, total population, total square mileage and whether a proposed planning region will have the capacity to successfully deliver sophisticated planning activities and regional services. Such analysis shall consider designating rural regions in areas of the state that do not have urbanized areas. The secretary may enter into such contractual agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection. On or before October 1, 2013, said secretary shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters concerning planning and development. Such report shall provide the status of the analysis required pursuant to this subsection.

(b) Any two or more contiguous planning regions that contain a total of fourteen or more municipalities and voluntarily consolidate to form a single planning region shall be exempt from redesignation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management formally redesignates such planning regions prior to January 1, 2014. The secretary may, in his or her discretion, waive the requirement that such redesignated planning region contain a total of fourteen or more municipalities.

(c) (1) The secretary shall, not later than January 1, 2014, notify the chief executive officer of each municipality located in a planning region in which the boundaries are proposed for redesignation. If the legislative body of the municipality objects to such proposed redesignation, the chief executive officer of the municipality may, not later than thirty days after the date of receipt of the notice of redesignation, petition the secretary to attend a meeting of such legislative body. The petition shall specify the location, date and time of the meeting. The meeting shall be held not later than sixty days after the date of the petition. The secretary shall make a reasonable attempt to appear at the meeting, or at a meeting on another date within the sixty-day period. If the secretary is unable to attend a meeting within the sixty-day period, the secretary and the chief executive officer of the municipality shall jointly schedule a date and time for the meeting, provided such meeting shall be held not later than two hundred ten days after the date of the notice to the chief executive officer. At such meeting, the legislative body of the municipality shall inform the secretary of the objections to the proposed redesignation of the planning area boundaries. The secretary shall consider fully the oral and written objections of the legislative body and may redesignate the boundaries. Not later than sixty days after the date of the meeting, the secretary shall notify the chief executive officer of the determination concerning the proposed redesignation. The notice of determination shall include the reasons for such determination. As used in this subsection, "municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and borough; "legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town council, city council, board of alderman, board of directors, board of representatives or board of the warden and burgesses of a municipality; and "secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the designee of the secretary.

(2) Any revision to the boundaries of a planning area, based on the analysis completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or due to a modification by the secretary in accordance with this subsection, shall be effective on January 1, 2015.