



CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

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TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 24, 2006

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities opposes S.B. 620, “An Act Concerning State Roadways”.

S.B. 620 appears to be the perennial proposal to weaken the sole proximate cause standards created by judicial interpretation of CGS Section 13a-149, concerning injuries caused by defective roads and bridges.

This bill would significantly increase municipal liability exposure and costs. Litigation costs, including attorneys’ fees and payment for damages would skyrocket.

Under the standard proposed by the bill, municipalities – as “deep pockets” – could be under a constant threat:

- Reckless drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs could obtain damages if they could show a “defect” existed.
- Plaintiffs could sue municipalities and the State directly in a multiple-car accident.
- Defendants in multiple-car accidents would bring municipalities and the State into cases based on the apportionment statute.

Make no mistake: S.B. 620 would significantly harm municipalities and their property taxpayers.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action on S.B. 620.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM at (203) 498-3000.