



Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:
Non-Speaking

TESTIMON Date: 3/12/07 Bill Number: 7346

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 12, 2007

CCM supports Raised House Bill 7346 - "*An Act Concerning Green School Buildings and the Gross Earnings Tax on Diesel Fuel for School Buses*".

This bill would provide an additional 5% project grant for school building projects that meet or exceed silver building rating of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's (LEED) rating system for new commercial construction and major renovation projects.

LEED standards have been the focus of many legislative proposals over the last several years. CCM has had concerns over the increased costs to municipalities and any potential mandates. To that end we have continuously requested that incentives be provide to encourage greater use of these building standards. This bill would do just that.

It is important to understand that the pool of professionals – architects, contractors, project managers, etc – knowledgeable with "green building" standards is slim. An increased demand for such professionals, spurred on by incentives for project owners to use these standards, will create a larger pool. This will help to expand the application of green buildings across Connecticut.

In addition, this bill would exempt from the gross receipts tax diesel fuel to be used exclusively by school buses. This could mean a savings to local and regional boards of education, and the municipal governments that financially support them.

CCM urges the committee to favorably report this bill.

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