



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 2, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM has concerns with Proposed House Bill 5474 "An Act Concerning Private, Municipal & State Recycling" as it is currently written.

The intent of this bill appears to be to increase the level of recycling occurring in Connecticut. However, it is extremely difficult to provide testimony on a concept that has not yet been fully formed and laid out for the public to understand exactly how the proponents expect to achieve their goals.

CCM has always been supportive of measures that would encourage increased recycling in Connecticut. However, we have concerns that language, in future drafts, might contain unfunded mandates on local governments. While we understand that the intention of this proposal has a good public policy goal, if the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. Without a fully drafted bill, it is impossible for CCM to determine how the program would impact municipalities.

Therefore, we ask that should the committee choose to move forward with this concept, that the language be carefully crafted to not include any unfunded mandates on municipalities. At any time, but especially during these tough economic times, if the State decides any such mandate is good policy, it should pay for them.

##

If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.