



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

February 10, 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 provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM opposes Proposed House Bill 5052 "*An Act Prohibiting Utility Company Surcharges for Credit Card Payments*" which would prohibit utility companies from imposing a surcharge or fee on payments made by debit or credit cards.

It is common practice for some municipal utilities to utilize a third-party vendor to allow customers to use credit and debit cards as a method of payment. These third-party vendors charge the payee a fee for this convenience. If this practice were disallowed, municipal utilities would be forced to either spread that cost among all ratepayers or discontinue this service.

CCM urges the committee not to support this bill.

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