



**TESTIMONY
BART RUSSELL
CT COUNCIL OF SMALL TOWNS
BEFORE THE
HOUSING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

RE: HB-5527, An Act Concerning the Calculation of the Number of Affordable Housing Units in Municipalities.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-5527, An Act Concerning the Calculation of the Number of Affordable Housing Units in Municipalities**, which revises the definition of affordable housing and changes the procedure for calculating the number of affordable housing units in municipalities in order to qualify for exemption from the affordable housing land use appeals procedure.

COST supports legislation that would modify the State's Affordable Housing Appeals procedure to allow existing affordable market rate units to be considered in meeting the 10% threshold and to allow existing development patterns to be a factor in determining the density of proposed affordable developments. By changing the procedure for calculating the number of affordable housing units in order to be considered exempt from the affordable housing appeals process, this bill will make the goals of affordable housing more realistic for towns.

COST urges your support for HB-5527.