



**SENATOR BOB DUFF**  
Norwalk & Darien  
*Assistant Majority Leader*

*Chair*  
Banks  
*Vice Chair*  
Transportation • Energy & Technology  
*Member*  
Appropriations  
*Appropriations Subcommittee Chair*  
Results-Based Accountability  
Conservation & Development

Testimony by Senator Bob Duff  
PROPOSED BILL 377, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF  
February 18, 2009

To: The Hon. Eric Coleman, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Brendan Sharkey, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Jonathan Harris, Vice Chairman, The Hon. Tom Drew, Vice Chairman, The Hon. Len Fasano, Ranking Member, The Hon. Bill Aman, Ranking Member and members of the Planning and Development Committee

I would like to thank the members of the Planning and Development Committee for hearing PROPOSED BILL 377, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

Connecticut currently does not allow municipalities to charge a local sales tax. This bill would authorize municipalities to impose a local sales tax of one-half of one percent on sales at retail establishment locations with more than twenty-five thousand square feet. Current state sales tax exemptions would apply to any local sales tax.

These stores tend to have high consumer traffic, employ individuals at low wage, and often contain low property tax propositions. With this bill's passage, these companies can be better partners in the communities in which they do business. People from nearby communities shop these locales, and this would help alleviate their property tax burden as well.

With our current economic situation, cities and towns have been hard hit by increasing costs, diminishing property taxes and reduced state aid. Education, the one area we all agree should not be cut back, is principally funded by local government. In order to maintain the current level of education funding and provide other necessary municipal services, we must find new ways to enable towns to meet their fiscal obligations. I believe this bill will help cities and towns bridge that gap.

I respectfully urge the committee to give this legislation every consideration. Thank you for this opportunity and please feel free to contact my office at 240-0414 if you have any questions.