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THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 9, 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 the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

S.B. 1041, "An Act Concerning the Demolition of Buildings"

CCM opposes this bill because it contains an unfunded state mandate.

The bill would, among other things, require building officials to (twice) publish in newspapers notices regarding applications to demolish buildings.

Towns and cities are facing fiscal crises not seen in decades. They are trying to get mandates *eliminated*, not have additional ones *added* on.

CCM strongly supports the proposal in the Governor's mandates reduction bill (H.B. 6388) that would allow towns to publish notices on the web, instead of in newspapers. The proposal acknowledges that publishing notices in newspapers is costly.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action on this bill.

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For more information, please contact Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM at (203) 498-3000.