



**TESTIMONY**  
**OF THE**  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
**TO THE**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

February 3, 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 this joint committee on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**CCM supports:**

**Raised Bill 759** "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Regional Fire Schools"  
**Raised Bill 6289** "An Act Appropriating Funds for Firefighter Training"

Raised Bill 759 would authorize bonding for capital improvements to Connecticut's regional fire schools. Raised Bill 6289 would allocate state funding to enhance the various levels of firefighter training courses for volunteer and paid local departments.

Despite the State's current fiscal crisis, Connecticut should continue to move forward and support critical programs such as regional training infrastructure improvements and education for our invaluable first responders. Fire emergencies do not subside because of a recession or deficits. It is imperative that our hometown fire departments – volunteer and paid – are adequately equipped with training resources, in good times and bad.

Simply put, Raised Bills 759 and 6289 are necessary bills. Faced with increasing public safety demands and declining federal resources - the State needs to make a stronger commitment to funding local first responders.

CCM urges the committee to favorably report Raised Bills 759 and 6289.



If you have any questions, please call Bob Labanara or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM, at (203) 498-3000