



TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

COMMERCE COMMITTEE

February 26, 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 supports Raised House Bill 6504 "An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee".

This proposal would provide \$20 million in funding for the Face of Connecticut Account - which invests in historic preservation, brownfields development, small farm preservation, and other multi-purpose projects.

This program was established in 2007 through the efforts of a group focused on a vision of preserving, protecting and maintaining the landscape and natural treasures of Connecticut for generations to come.

Involved in this coalition have been environmentalists, historical experts, agricultural entities, and municipalities - to name a few. This mix of interests agrees that protecting the "Face of Connecticut" requires a comprehensive approach.

Providing funding to keep this effort moving forward will benefit everyone in our state for generations to come.

CCM urges the committee **favorably report** 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.