



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.

Raised House Bill 6506, "*An Act Streamlining the Permit Approval Process*"

This proposal would mandate that all levels of government establish a process that permit applicants can avail themselves of voluntarily for a pre-application review of proposed economic development projects.

CCM supports pre-application review teams, but believes that the State should establish the framework for such teams and that municipalities should be able to voluntarily participate.

We also support a process by which municipal officials, applicants and state agency staff can meet to work together to expedite permit approvals. Too often, permit approvals are done sequentially – when many regulatory reviews should be able to go forward at the same time.

CCM urges the committee amend this bill to make participation by municipalities in pre-application review voluntary.

##

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.