



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE**

March 2, 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 you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports **H. B. 6560, "AAC Municipal Authority To Set Fees And Increase Fines"**

This bill would allow municipalities to (a) **impose a surcharge on fees set by statute, up to the cost to the municipality** of providing the service and (b) **impose fines of up to \$1,000 for violations of ordinances.**

In many cases, fees for municipal services – set in statute – have not been increased in decades. For instance, town clerks' fees for certain licenses have not been increased since 1989.

This proposal would treat local officials like adults, accountable to their residents, and would spare them the need to come to the Capitol to beg for fee increases that would enable them stay financially even.

It would not be *carte blanche* – the proposal is specific that surcharges could only be applied up to the cost to the municipality to provide the service for which the fee is assessed.

In today's tough fiscal climate, the least the State can do – at no cost to itself – is provide municipalities with the tools necessary to stay financially afloat.

***We urge you to favorably report this bill.***

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For more information, please contact Gian-Carl Casa, Bob Labanara or Jim Finley  
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