



**Bart Russell**

**Executive Director**

**Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)**

**Testimony before the Government Administration & Elections**

**Committee**

**March 23, 2009**

- **HB-5214, AN ACT CONCERNING POSTING LEGAL NOTICES ON THE WEB SITE OF A MUNICIPALITY**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) strongly supports HB-5214, which allows towns to post legal notices on their websites.

Towns are required by law to publish numerous legal notices in newspapers. Unfortunately, advertising prices have increased dramatically, placing a fiscal burden on Connecticut's small towns. In addition, many small town newspapers have gone out of business, requiring towns to publish notices in the more expensive metropolitan newspapers. Printing costs have increased substantially as well.

Allowing towns with the staff and Internet capabilities to post such notices on their websites will help reduce this fiscal burden while ensuring that the public has access to such notices. For the vast majority of people, posting legal notices on the Internet will allow greater access to this information. We therefore support HB-5214 which will allow towns to post certain reports, job ads, etc. on the Internet.