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Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)

Testimony before the Planning & Development Committee

March 2, 2009

- **HB-6463, AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP ON REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) appreciates the efforts of the Smart Growth Work Group to outline recommendations for promoting regional cooperation. However, we oppose HB-6463, which mandates the composition of the Regional Planning Organization.

Some towns prefer the current arrangement where they can appoint someone other than the Chief Elected Official to serve on the regional planning organization. In many small towns, the Chief Elected Official simply doesn't have the time to serve and, instead, relies on trusted representatives to serve and attend regional planning organization meetings on their behalf. This allows more people to get engaged in regional planning efforts, which brings a fresh perspective to the table.

We do not believe there have been any concerns regarding this practice and urge the committee to reject HB-6463 which would restrict the ability of towns to have other community members participate in the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at 860-676-0770 if you have any questions.