



**Bart Russell, Executive Director**

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

**Testimony before the Planning & Development Committee**

**March 2, 2009**

- **HB-6466, AN ACT CONCERNING PROJECTS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports HB-6466, An Act Concerning Projects of Regional Significance*, which requires each regional planning organization to establish a voluntary pre-application review.

This review process will facilitate the development of regional projects by outlining the criteria and standards for review the outset of the project. It will also allow applicants to receive preliminary feedback on the project and an opportunity to discuss the project with agency representatives. This will ensure that applicants understand any issues concerns regarding the project and will give them an opportunity to address these concerns to move forward with the project. Creating a transparent pre-application review process will go a long way toward fostering regional cooperation.

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