



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 8, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - 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.

CCM opposes Raised Senate Bill 205 "An Act Concerning Enhancements to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act"

- This proposal would require that Inland Wetland Commissions consider "all evidence" brought before it during a permit application process.

"All" evidence could be quite voluminous and not necessarily be pertinent or credible. This proposal could impose an enormous administrative and financial burden on the Commissions bogging down the process substantially.

CCM has concerns with Raised House Bill 123 "An Act Concerning Natural Vegetation Near Wetlands and Watercourses"

- This proposal would add an additional consideration for local Inland Wetland Commissions when considering a permit for a regulated activity. CCM is not aware of any statewide problem that would necessitate such a change in these statutes. In addition, CCM is concerned that such a proposal would unnecessarily expand the jurisdiction of the local agencies beyond the true scope of their purpose.

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act is a very important section of Connecticut statutes and serves a critical role in protecting these delicate areas in our environment. The individuals who serve on the local commissions charged with implementing this act are volunteers from the community who put in a significant amount of time and energy to meet the demands of these roles. CCM is concerned that the proposals identified above would (1) hurt the process by which applications for regulated activity are examined; (2) open the door for future litigations; (2) and weaken, in some cases, the ability of the local commissions to protect these sensitive areas

CCM urges the committee to **take no action** on these unfunded mandates.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
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