



TESTIMONY  
of the  
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES  
to the  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 12, 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 has concerns with** Raised House Bill 5420 *"An Act Concerning the Transition from the Ten Mil Program in 2011"*.

This bill appears to provide additional property tax exemptions for certain properties.

Every year there are many well-intentioned proposals to reduce the property tax burden of one group or another. Everybody wants out of the property tax – but peeling off one group after another is not reform. Again, these would only serve to shift the burden of those taxes to the remaining property owners of a given municipality. Currently, there are close to two-dozen opportunities for property tax abatement at municipal option and 75 mandated ones (see attached sheet).

In an economy where local officials are struggling to sustain critical services – amidst growing deficits, evaporating revenues, and layoffs – this bill would negatively impact hometown budgets. Towns and cities have already suffered a \$100 million cut in state aid in this biennium; the State is currently grappling with a \$500-\$700 million current year deficit; and, upwards of \$3 billion deficits faces us in the out years. This is not the time for enacting any new unfunded mandates, no matter what the reason.

In an era of fiscal limits, it is unfortunately a time when we must say no to good things.

CCM urges the committee to ***take no action*** on this bill.

## ## ##

If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email [kweaver@ccm-ct.org](mailto:kweaver@ccm-ct.org) or via phone (203) 498-3026.