



Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents
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Testimony of John L. Cattelan
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Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents
H.B. No. 5482 An Act Extending the Deadline for
Certain Tax Credits and Exemptions
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 15, 2010

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is John Cattelan and I am the Director of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents. I am here today to discuss H.B. 5482 An Act Extending the Deadline for Certain Tax Credits and Exemptions, which makes a slight adjustment to the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act.

I would recommend the committee make the following changes to the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act to make it easier for non-profits and corporations to participate in the program.

1. Require the Secretary of State to publish a list of corporations, with their addresses, that are eligible to apply for tax credits in

Connecticut. One of the obstacles small non-profits face is they do not know which companies are eligible to participate in this program, so they are unaware of which companies to solicit.

2. A non-profit must file a form NAA-01 before July 1 to get approved by a local municipality. The local municipality must hold a public hearing and their legislative body must approve. I believe this part of the application process is unnecessary. It would also provide local municipalities with some minor mandate relief. None of the other 25 tax credit programs in Connecticut require this.
3. The business organization requesting the tax credit must file a NAA-02 between Sept. 15 and Oct. 1. This is only a 2 week window to apply for the tax credit, which seems unreasonable to me. No other Connecticut tax credit program has a two week window to apply. I would suggest allowing the eligible corporation to file between September 1 through December 31.
4. The business must receive an approval letter from DRS to even file the NAA-02 – I'm not sure this is necessary either. The problem I have with this provision is from a discussion I had with Tom Dorsey from NU. Last year NU was going to donate \$150,000 through this program, but he never received the approval letter from DRS so his

corporation did not end up making the donation. That is really a shame.

I have reviewed the 25 tax credit available to corporations in Connecticut and none of them seem to have the barriers that exist in the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act. This is clearly the most burdensome and bureaucratic tax credit program in the state. Why not make it easier for non-profits, especially the smaller non-profits, to access the donations they need to survive during these difficult economic times.