



Revised

TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010 (R)

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.

SB 25 "An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bond of the State For Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes."

Among other things, this bill would reduce and cancel unissued bond fund authorizations.

We urge you to scrutinize each recommendation to ensure that no project that would be of significant assistance to a municipality would be negatively affected by these cancelations.

[Section 9: The Governor has proposed \$10 million in bonding for joint municipal equipment purchases. *We urge you to support this much-needed step forward.* The way to greater cooperation in operations is to provide the funding to share and defray costs of capital equipment.

Grant programs such as these proposals should not be done just because regional cooperation is thought to be a "nice thing". Incentives for multi-municipal efforts are a way to more efficiency in the way in which government services are delivered in our state - these investments now show the way to lower costs for government *overall* in the future.

Simply put, Connecticut can increase government efficiency through greater municipal cooperation.

Connecticut needs to make structural changes to set the stage for more efficient delivery of government services and real property tax relief. The Governor's proposal is a tangible step in this direction, and we urge you to support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

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If you have any questions, please contact Gian-Carl Casa or Bob Labanara of CCM, at (203) 498-3000.