



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

April 5, 2011

Good afternoon, on behalf of CCM -- Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities -- my name is **Art Ward, Mayor of Bristol**. Thank you for the opportunity today to speak before you regarding *H.B. 5117, "An Act Concerning Portions of the State Budget Appropriating Aid to Municipalities"*.

H.B. 5117, "An Act Concerning Portions of the State Budget Appropriating Aid to Municipalities"

CCM supports the concept behind the bill, but urges the Committee to amend H.B. 5117.

CCM asks the Committee to amend H.B. 5117 to provide that the General Assembly adopt *minimum* levels of municipal aid by *May 1* of each year, rather than March 1. The bill should also contain a clause stating that, regardless of municipal charters, ordinances, or special acts to the contrary, municipalities *may* delay adopting their budgets until *May 15* of each year.

The May 1 deadline provides the General Assembly with more room to adopt a budget (a March 1 deadline is unrealistic, particularly in a "short" session). It also provides a longer look at the state revenue projections. Further, providing municipalities with the flexibility to adopt their budgets after the May 1 General Assembly budget deadline provides municipalities and their property taxpayers with a more realistic take on state aid.

CCM urges the Committee to amend, then favorably report, H.B. 5117. This common sense proposal would provide towns and cities with much-needed certainty regarding minimum state aid levels to towns and cities.

Thank you.

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If you have any questions, please call Jim Finley (jfinley@ccm-ct.org) or Ron Thomas at rthomas@ccm-ct.org at (203) 498-3000.