



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
S.B. 127, An Act Concerning Updates to the Neighborhood Assistance Act
Commerce Committee
February 3, 2011**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and members of the Commerce 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 testify in support of S.B. 127, An Act Concerning Updates of the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

The Federation represents the parents of the 33,000 students who attend one of Connecticut's 130 Catholic Schools. I might add these schools save the taxpayers of Connecticut over \$400 million a year.

The bill would allow limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships and S corporations to participate in this program. Currently, only C corporations are allowed to participate.

Last year Connecticut's Catholic Schools received \$5,000 via the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act and used these funds for a building expansion and energy conservation programs. Over the years we have received a similar amount of funds for these types of projects. As energy costs continue to rise, many of our schools will find it helpful to make our buildings more energy efficient. The Federation believes by expanding the availability of this tax credit more businesses would be willing to participate in this program.

According to the Department of Revenue Services, in 2007 and 2008 only \$4.5 million of \$10 million in tax credits had been claimed.

As difficult economic times continue, it will be very important for non-profits, to provide businesses with incentive to donate to our organization and I believe this bill can help accomplish that goal. Again, I urge you to support S.B. 127.

Thank you.