



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

February 24, 2011

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 supports Raised Bill 1023 "An Act Concerning the Use of Historic Structures and Vacant Government Buildings for Economic Development."**

1023 would expand the historic structures tax credit to include vacant governmental buildings as a means to encourage economic development.

CCM supports measures that would increase remediation and redevelopment of vacant properties for economic development. Such steps would serve to utilize properties that have been a dead weight on municipalities, as well as being unsightly, dangerous, and hazardous to public health.

The remediation of these buildings is an important part of Connecticut's efforts to 1) spur development in places where the infrastructure to support it already exists and 2) improve blighted areas.

Cities and towns have long found that the major impediment to the remediation of these buildings is simple: a lack of money. Financial incentives are necessary to motivate companies to remediate and redevelop a old buildings as opposed to the ease of using a clean vacant site. As has been introduced in this bill, tax credits are good mechanisms for providing these incentives.

CCM urges the committee **favorably report** this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM via email [dhamzy@ccm-ct.org](mailto:dhamzy@ccm-ct.org) or via phone (203) 843-0705.