



**Testimony  
Bart Russell  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)  
Before the Energy Committee  
March 8, 2011**

**RE: SUPPORT – SB-1141, An Act Concerning Net Metering**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports SB-1141*, which would assist towns in utilizing renewable energy technologies by providing them with credits for use of that energy at other locations owned by the generator. By allowing municipalities to generate up to two megawatts of energy, SB-1141 will help towns reduce the energy costs associated with many town buildings and facilities. These cost savings will also benefit local taxpayers by helping to hold down increases in property taxes

Clearly, virtual net metering will help make renewable energy a cost-effective option for Connecticut's smaller towns and cities. We do, however, recommend that the bill be strengthened by allowing municipalities to have more than one virtual net metering facility and by eliminating language that restricts towns to no more than five beneficial accounts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the bill.