



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

February 14, 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:

**H.B. 5178, "An Act Authorizing Notice of Zone Changes to Be Sent by Electronic Mail"**

**H.B. 5256, "An Act Concerning Receipt by Electronic Mail of Municipal Tax Bills"**

CCM supports these bills.

H.B. 5178 and 5256 would help municipalities and regional entities operate more efficiently by allowing material currently sent via mail to be sent via electronic mail.

H.B. 5178 would allow municipal zoning commissions to send notices of zoning changes to regional planning organizations (RPOs) via email, rather than certified mail.

H.B. 5256 would allow tax collectors to send communications to residents and businesses electronically, provided such residents and businesses agree to receive such statements electronically.

These are common sense, cost-saving proposals.

CCM urges the committee to support these bills and favorably report them.

## ## ##

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Thomas at [rthomas@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rthomas@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 498-3000.



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**H.B. 5178, "An Act Authorizing Notice of Zone Changes to Be Sent by Electronic Mail"**

CCM supports this bill.

S.B. 402 and 519 would help ensure that towns and cities have the wherewithal to provide information to residents and business owners.

Many municipalities – especially smaller towns – need additional assistance to develop and maintain a meaningful web presence.

The State can support towns and cities in a way that helps them provide important and valued services to residents from the comfort of their homes.

CCM urges the committee to support these bills and favorably report them.

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**H.B. 5258, "An Act Prohibiting Municipal Water Companies From Charging Higher Rates to Residential Customers in Other Municipalities"**

CCM has concerns regarding this bill.

H.B.5258 would prohibit municipal water companies from charging higher rates to customers from other communities.

There can be variety of legitimate reasons for municipal water companies to charge higher rates to non-residents. To require a broad prohibition does not take into account infrastructure, distribution main and other costs.

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**H.B. 5097, "An Act Concerning Statutory Training Requirements for Inland Wetlands Commission Members"**

CCM is unaware of any widespread conditions that would necessitate H.B. 5097.

This bill would require that inland wetland commissions confirm, on the record, that they have complied with statutory training requirements.

CCM is concerned that this bill would encourage other micro-managing proposals regarding other municipal commissions and departments.

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**S.B. 402, "An Act Concerning the Development of A Single Municipal Web Portal"**

**S.B. 519, "An Act Concerning E-Government"**

CCM supports these bills.

S.B. 402 and 519 would help ensure that towns and cities have the wherewithal to provide information to residents and business owners.

Many municipalities – especially smaller towns – need additional assistance to develop and maintain a meaningful web presence.

The State can support towns and cities in a way that helps them provide important and valued services to residents and businesses.

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**S.B. 499, "An Act Concerning Wastewater Treatment"**

CCM supports voluntary mechanisms to encourage intermunicipal cooperation.

S.B. 499 should be an incentive-based measure to help communities see the advantage of working cooperatively on wastewater treatment facilities and other endeavors.

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