



State of Connecticut

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Testimony

In Support of Delaying Municipal Revaluation

Planning & Development Committee

March 4, 2011

Good morning Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman, and members of the committee.

I am here today to ask the committee to consider allowing cities and towns to delay the state mandated property revaluation to a future year. At a time when cities and towns simply can't afford the cost of conducting the unfunded revaluation mandate it is a reasonable solution to postpone to a future year therefore allowing municipalities to balance their budgets in these difficult times. The legislature recognized the considerable costs and deferred the revaluations during the economic down-turns in 2003, 2004 and 2009. We know from that experience the great relief it offered to our cities and towns. The cost of conducting property revaluation, as currently mandated, can cost a small town approximately \$220,000. In my district, the city of Stamford, estimates they could save at least \$1 million dollars and possibly up to \$2 million dollars, simply by the legislature granting this delay. CCM estimated that, statewide costs would be at least \$6.5 million for those towns scheduled to conduct revaluations in 2011. This number demonstrates how a simple delay made by the legislature can have a significant impact on municipal budgets.

I ask today that you please strongly consider this proposal so we can provide the much needed relief to our cities and towns. In these difficult economic times when the legislature cannot increase municipal aid, allowing this simple measure would be removing a large one-time expense to already stretched budgets of municipalities.

Many thanks for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

L. Scott Frantz, State Senator 36th District