



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

March 2, 2011

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

H.B. 5332, "An Act Requiring Municipalities That Regionalize to Provide Property Tax Relief"

CCM has concerns with this bill.

H.B. 5332 would require that, if municipalities gain any savings through regional efforts, they "return half of any amount realized in excess of ten million dollars to eligible property owners who reside with such municipality in the form of a property tax credit to be applied on a pro rata basis."

It should be permissive, not mandatory that towns provide property tax credits. Local government officials are elected – and held accountable – by the local electorate. They should be given the authority to decide on what should be done with any savings, including funding needed for service delivery.

CCM urges the Committee to amend this bill by changing the "shall" to a "may" in line 22.

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If you have any questions, please contact Jim Finley (jfinley@ccm-ct.org) or Ron Thomas rthomas@ccm-ct.org at (203) 498-3000.