



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE
March 3, 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 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

HB 6378 "An Act Requiring An Automatic Fire Extinguishing System in All One and Two-Family Homes"

HB 6378 would mandate that "each residential building intended for occupancy by one or two families and for which a building permit for new occupancy is issued on or after January 1, 2013, shall have an automatic fire extinguishing system [sprinkler system] approved by the State Fire Marshal on each floor."

While the installation of fire sprinklers in residential homes is a worthy objective, CCM has concerns with the impact this proposal could have on municipalities -- as well as its impact on the regulatory process for achieving such a goal. CCM currently participates in the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Residential Sprinkler Work Group which has been assigned the task of collecting pertinent data, analyzing impacts (property value effects, costs, code implications, enforcement and water supply demands, etc.), and offering recommendations. As the work group examines these issues and considers various regulatory options -- CCM believes it would not be prudent public policy to enact such a statutory mandate, as proposed in HB 6378.

To this end, CCM respectfully urges the Committee to take **no action on HB 6378** and allow the DPS's group to continue its work on this matter.

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If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara of CCM at rlabanara@ccm-ct.org.