



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

March 10, 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 about 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM opposes SB 1133 "An Act Concerning a Municipal Option to Abate Personal Property Taxes on Software Production Facilities."

This bill would create yet another "municipal-option" property tax exemption this time for software production facilities.

While it would be municipal-option, passage of this bill would place a difficult political burden on local governments which are already juggling very difficult financial decisions just to continue to provide needed local services.

Every year there are many well-intentioned proposals to reduce the property tax burden of one group or another. Everybody wants out of the property tax - but peeling off one group after another is not reform. Currently there are already several dozen municipal-option property tax exemptions in statute. On top of these, there are 77 state mandated property tax exemptions (see attached).

It is important to remember that a reduction in property taxes for one property owner only shifts that burden onto the remaining residential and business property tax payers in the municipality. During these difficult fiscal times, no more burdens should be placed on local governments.

CCM urges the committee to **take no action** on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM via email dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 843-0705.