



Testimony of
Bart Russell, Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Planning & Development Committee
FEBRUARY 18, 2011

RE: SUPPORT – SB- 862, AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY OF ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports SB-862 which eliminates treble damages for zoning officers.

Allowing complainants to pursue treble damages against zoning officers exposes towns to significant liability costs and has a chilling effect on the ability of zoning officers to carry out their responsibilities. No other municipal officer is singled out in this manner. We therefore support removal of this provision, which would make the law more consistent with inland wetlands procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important mandate relief proposal.