



Testimony

Bart Russell, Executive Director

Connecticut Council of Small Towns

Before the Appropriations Committee

March 19, 2012

RE: H.B. No. 5339 (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AND EXPANDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DISTRIBUTION OF STATE FUNDS TO MUNICIPALITIES.

State aid to municipalities is a vital source of revenue to towns that is needed to fund critical programs and services, such as education, public safety, roads and bridges and other infrastructure. The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) therefore welcomes the opportunity to have a representative of COST participate on the task force.

We believe the task force will greatly benefit from the perspective of small towns in recommending ways to revise distribution formulas for state funds to ensure fair share funding for all towns.

Thank you for raising a bill to give small towns a seat at the table. We urge your continued support for this bill.