



CCM 2012 Testimony

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COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (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 the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports House Bill 5465 "*An Act Concerning the State's Regulatory and Permitting Process.*"

Would, among other things, require: (1) applications for permits within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) be reviewed and decided on within 90 days after the application has been filed, and (2) absent a decision within 90 days, the permit is automatically approved.

Towns and cities are partners in governing the State. However, many state agencies, including DEEP, take an inordinate amount of time to process and approve various permits that are necessary for routine municipal functions or local economic development projects. This results in additional fiscal and administrative costs to towns and cities, and a loss of economic development opportunities.

HB 5465 would go a long way towards improving the state-local partnership for economic development and the completion of important projects. In addition, it could help rid our state of the reputation as a place where economic development projects go to die.

CCM urges the Committee to favorably report HB 5465.



If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM
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