



CCM 2012 Testimony

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ENVIRONMENT 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 ***has concerns with*** Senate Bill 90 "***An Act Establishing a Loan Program for the Removal of Hazardous Trees From private Property***".

In the wake of the recent "two-storms" in Connecticut, CCM applauds the committee for seeking an innovative finance mechanism to assist homeowners with addressing hazardous trees.

However, we are concerned that the manner in which this bill proposes it be implemented, would impose a new unfunded mandate on towns and cities and open up the potential for liability on the part of local tree wardens.

Not all tree wardens are employees of municipalities; some provide the service to their community on a volunteer basis. Expanding their mandate to now have to address issues on private properties could significantly increase their workload. Furthermore, should a property owner fail to take action on a tree that a tree warden determined "poses a present or potential hazard" and a loss is incurred as a result of such tree we are concerned about the liability exposure of the municipality and/or individual tree warden.

Again, CCM appreciates the effort attempted by this bill. However, CCM is concerned about additional administrative duties imposed on wardens and expansion of liability exposure.

CCM urges the committee to ***take no action on this bill, as currently drafted.***



If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 710-9525.