



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 SB 375 "An Act Concerning Reimbursement Under the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Program."

Among other things, this bill would eliminate the fund that assists owners of underground petroleum storage tanks clean-up leaky or contaminated sites.

Just the existence of the fund in Connecticut meets the federal insurance requirement for property owners. Absent the fund, property owners will be faced with having to obtain private insurance – which will be impossible for existing contaminated sites – or go out of business. Municipalities are concerned about the potential for contaminated properties, forced to shut down, being abandoned and creating new brownfields across the state.

Towns and cities also own these types of tanks, absent the fund the full burden of paying for remediation of these sites will shift to local property taxpayers and increase the fiscal stress already felt in local budgets.

CCM urges the committee to **take no action** on this bill and ensure the continuance of a much needed "insurance policy" for small business owners across Connecticut and the continued financial assistance to municipal governments.



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.