



CCM 2012 Testimony

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ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY 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 5271 "*An Act Concerning the Siting Council*"

Among other things, this bill would:

1. Provide municipal authority over the siting of telecommunication towers within 250 feet of a school, or commercial day care center. *Section 1(a)(3)(G)*
2. Require payments be made to municipalities from the Municipal Participation Account first to defray costs incurred by such a municipality who participates as a party to a certification proceeding, and eliminates any requirement that the municipality refund any excess funds it may have received from the account. *Section 3*
3. Require applicants to make a "good faith" effort to meet with the municipal CEO where such facility is being proposed, within 90 days before filing an application, and provide them with: (1) technical reports concerning the need for such facility, (2) a map indicating the area of need, and the location of existing surrounding facilities, (3) a detailed description of the proposed and any alternate sites under consideration, (4) a list of other sites or areas considered and rejected, (5) the location of all schools near the proposed facilities, (6) an analysis of the potential aesthetic impacts of the facility on said schools, (7) a discussion of efforts or measures to be taken to mitigate such aesthetic impacts, (8) a description of the site selection process undertaken by the prospective applicant and (9) the potential environmental effects of the proposed facility. The applicant is also required to provide copies of such reports to the municipality's planning commission, zoning commission and inland wetland agency.

In addition allows the municipality to, (a) hold a public information meeting within 60 days of the initial meeting between the applicant and the municipal CEO, and (b) present the applicant with proposed alternative sites, within 30 days of the initial meeting, which the applicant must consider and may include in their application to the Siting Council. *Section 4*

Telecommunication towers - and other such facilities - will have an impact on the towns and cities in which they are proposed to be placed and have been the subject of many heated local debates. CCM applauds these

sections of the bill as providing more local control over the siting of telecommunication towers within their boundaries and ensuring that reimbursement to towns and cities for costs associated with such proceedings is made a priority.

CCM urges the committee to favorably report this bill to ensure appropriate authority is given to local governments over certain facilities and the costs of the proceedings are not borne by local property taxpayers.

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