



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 HB 5543** to (1) allow municipalities to explore and establish a municipal electric utility and (2) allow those municipal utilities already in existence to expand their service territory.

This bill would provide potential options for municipalities. In the aftermath of recent historic storms, the handful of municipalities that currently operate their own utilities served as models for efficient recovery and restoration.

However, CCM also appreciates that more discussions should be had in order to fully understand the impact a proposal such as this would have on Connecticut's electric power market. Having said that CCM also supports a proposal out of the Planning and Development committee, HB 5406, *An Act Establishing A Task Force to Study Barriers to the Formation of Municipal Utilities* - to create a task force to study the barriers towns and cities would face if they decided to form their own public utilities. Such group would be charged with providing recommendations to amend state laws that would address such barriers.

State lawmakers would be wise to examine this issue in more detail and provide their partners in government - Connecticut's hometowns - with a potential blueprint on possible utility options.

CCM urges the committee to ***favorably report HB 5543.***



If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM via email dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3000.