

CCM 2012 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

JUDICIARY 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.

H.B. 5502, "An Act Concerning Standing to Appeal A Zoning Decision and Municipal Power to Obtain A Search Warrant"

CCM supports efforts to overturn an unfortunate and problematic state Supreme Court decision, *Bozrah v. Chmurryski*. However, HB 5502 will need revisions to complete this effort.

Chmurryski tied the public advocate hands of zoning officials by thwarting municipalities' ability to obtain a search warrant to inspect residential properties for zoning violations. By requiring a "probable cause" standard before initiating an inspection without an owners' consent, the Court unnecessarily compromises the public health and safety of residents.

CCM looks forward to working with the bill's sponsors to adding reason and clarity to the zoning enforcement statutes – and provide towns and cities with an essential instrument to ensure the safety, health and welfare of communities.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas at rthomas@ccm-ct.org at (203) 498-3000.