



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.

SB 349 "An Act Concerning Training for Inland Wetlands Agency Members and Agents."

CCM supports Section 1 of this bill, which would require training programs for inland wetland agency members and their agents be made available online.

Online courses provide greater access to individuals interested and in need of such training. We applaud this effort as a way to make the program more accessible and hopefully train more local officials across Connecticut.

CCM opposes the mandates in Sections 2 and 3, which require members of inland wetlands agencies to complete the program. The bill provides funding for such training within available funds only, and therefore does not provide any guarantee.

Towns and cities are continuously faced with difficulty in filling needed positions on local boards and commissions. Inserting new hurdles and requirements on *local volunteers* will only make it more difficult.

CCM urges the committee to **delete Sections 2 and 3**, continue to **create the online access**, and **work with local governments to advertise** the availability of the new online courses.



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.