



# CCM 2012 Testimony

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## ***PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT 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.

### **S.B. 5160, "An Act Establishing A Municipal Option to Abate Property Taxes for Small Businesses"**

While CCM appreciates the intent behind this proposal - to encourage small business development -- this proposal is one of many by state legislators to provide towns and cities the option to provide some kind of abatement or another.

The General Assembly has a history of passing legislation that a municipality may adopt by local option which, as a practical political matter, the town or city cannot avoid. For example, in recent years the Legislature has given municipalities the option of increasing property tax breaks to military veterans at local taxpayers' expense - a worthy cause, but an option that many municipalities will feel compelled to enact, especially when the country is involved in two wars. In a situation such as this, the State has again bought good will from a segment of the public - with local property tax dollars.

It should be noted that CCM is a strong proponent of making the State more economically competitive. Our 2012 State Legislative Agenda is entitled, "Strong Local Economies = A Strong Connecticut". In our Agenda, we propose several ways to improve the quality of life in Connecticut, since such issues are the most important factors businesses weigh in determining whether to relocate or remain in a state. Factors such as quality schools, an educated workforce, safe neighborhoods, reasonable property taxes, safe and reliable roads and bridges top the list of employers "must haves".

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If you have any questions, please contact Ron Thomas at [rthomas@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rthomas@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 498-3000.