



**Testimony**

**Bart Russell, Executive Director**

**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**

**Before the Planning & Development Committee**

**March 21, 2012**

**RE: SUPPORT – SB-439, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF MUNICIPAL RECORDS.**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **strongly supports SB-439** which will modernize provisions relative to fire resistant vaults and safes to provide greater protection of vital municipal records.

Existing regulations require vaults to be constructed of concrete. However, concrete will not adequately protect digital files and microfilm in vaults that have been subjected to high temperatures and humidity for prolonged periods of time. We therefore support efforts to modernize the regulations to reflect new technologies, such as steel frames with ceramic cores.

Thank you for raising this issue. COST urges your continued support.