

CCM 2013 Testimony

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Commerce 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 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM has concerns with certain sections of HB 6469 An Act Concerning Changes to the Annual Report of the Department of Economic Development and SB 943 An Act Concerning Changes to the State Economic Strategic Plan.

HB 6469 appears to remove requirements that the State collect certain data from, among others, towns and cities, or provide data on a town-by-town basis. Much of the information currently collected provides the State with a clearer picture of community development and housing issues on the local level, which, in turn, makes for smarter statewide community development planning.

Among other things, the bill appears to delete the requirement that the State collect data on which towns meet the affordable housing criteria in CGS 8-30g. CCM disseminates this information to communities, and it is helpful in determining where communities are in meeting their affordable housing obligations.

SB 943 would remove the requirement for the commissioner of DECD to consult with municipal officials, regional planning organizations, and regional councils of government when developing the Strategic Economic Plan. CCM believes that this consultation between state and regional officials is an important aspect in ensuring that local concerns and interests are brought to the attention of DECD and incorporated into the plan.

CCM looks forward to discussing these concerns with members of the committee and representatives of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

CCM looks forward to working with the proponents of HB 6469 and SB 943 to streamline and assist DECD operations, while continuing to ensure regional input and the complete compilation of important information used by towns, cities and others.

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If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr., Senior Legislative Associate, CCM via email rcollins@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3053.