



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 supports *HB 6651 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the State of Connecticut Brownfields Working Group.*

This bill would consolidate and simplify the various existing brownfield remediation programs as recommended by the Connecticut Brownfields Working Group. HB 6651 would establish within DECD an Office of Brownfield Remediation and Redevelopment and create single point of contact for financial and technical assistance with regard to brownfield remediation and development. The bill would combine multiple grant and loan programs into a single grant program and a single loan program to facilitate their use. HB 6651 would establish a separate Brownfields section within the General Statutes and the various definitions and terms used when dealing with brownfields. CCM and its members support these changes and believe that this will create a more user friendly approach for municipalities and other parties that seek to remediate and redevelop brownfields.

Brownfields remain a serious obstacle for many towns and cities as they look to redevelop these contaminated sites into usable space. This bill if enacted would, streamline the process allowing more of these sites to be remediated and redeveloped thus improving public health, creating jobs, housing, adding to municipal tax bases and increasing property values for entire neighborhoods.

CCM and its member towns and cities strongly support the efforts of HB 6615 which will encourage and expedite the brownfield remediation process and promote the redevelopment of our towns and cities.

CCM urges the committee to favorably report HB 6651 and looks forward to working with members of the committee and representatives of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

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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) 498-3000.