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Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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2013 Legislative Committee

Testimony of
Debra Denette, Town Clerk of East Haddam & Member of CTCA Legislative Committee
Environment Committee
Wednesday, January 30, 2013

HB 5333, AN ACT REQUIRING THE BIENNIAL LICENSING OF DOGS.

To have dog registration be more in line with the biennial rabies vaccine requirements for such animals and to save municipalities the yearly postage expense for license renewal applications.

Good morning Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and the members of the Environment Committee, my name is Debra Denette, and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA). I am a member of the legislative committee for the Association and the Town Clerk of East Haddam. I am here today to address the Proposed Bill No 5333.

I believe that if we are going to amend the statute, we should take a broader look at what we are trying to address.

We believe the amendment attempts to address, the large burden placed upon municipalities due largely to annual postage expenses. Postage costs have been steadily increasing over the past several years, yet the dog licensing fees have remained the same (since 2003). Additionally, post offices tack on a surcharge because of the "s" hook. A modest increase (from \$8.00 to \$10.00 for an altered dog and from \$19.00 to \$20 for an unaltered dog) with the additional licensing revenue remaining with the municipality to offset increased processing costs would readily address the postage burden without creating confusion to the general public.

The Town Clerk Association believes that changing the license requirement to every two years will make it harder for the town clerk to maintain their dogs list as accurate as possible, a necessity for our Animal Control Officers.

Should you wish to pursue the biennial concept, please factor in how a license might be pro-rated for an individual acquiring a dog in the off year as the statute presently does not take that into consideration. Further, please be mindful that as long as a rabies vaccine is current at the time of license, it is sufficient to license a dog. Rabies vaccines could easily become 23 months expired without the verification afforded by the licensing process.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk
Member, CTCA Legislative Committee