



CCM 2013 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

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ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY 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.

HB 6471 An Act Concerning Tree Trimming By Utilities

The proposal, would among other things, provide an up-to-date approach on a utility company's ability to cut and/or trim trees located on private, municipal and state properties. It would do so by requiring a utility company conducting tree trimming to provide proper notice to affected property owners of their intent, as well as create a process for the owners to file an objection to the cutting or trimming.

In addition, HB 6471 would require each electric distribution company to work with towns and cities within their service area to establish a plan to identify hazardous trees. Municipalities would be required establish standards for tree trimming of hazardous trees, provide notice to property owners of any existing hazardous tree, and establish enforcement provisions for the cutting, trimming and pruning of any hazardous tree.

CCM supports requiring utility company's notification to customers of impending tree trimming or removing, and providing a mechanism for customers to raise objections to such trimming or removing, **we however oppose the requirements that municipalities** establish standards for tree trimming of hazardous trees, provide notice to property owners of any existing hazardous tree, and establish enforcement provisions for the cutting, trimming and pruning of any hazardous tree.

While we appreciate its intent, we have concerns of the additional workload this would place on local of Department of Works personnel, as well may extend municipal liability should plans not be adhered and property damage or personal injury occurs.

CCM urges the committee to **support in part, and oppose in part, HB 6471.**



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Associate at (mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or via phone (203) 500-7556.