



**Testimony of  
Laura Francis  
First Selectman, Town of Durham  
Before the  
Planning & Development Committee  
March 11, 2013**

**RE: SB-847 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON TECHNOLOGY  
ADVANCEMENT**

The Town of Durham **supports Governor Malloy's proposal, SB-847**, which includes municipal facilities in the state's plan to create a highly dependable network that supports public safety, education and network operability.

Municipal governments need to be able to connect to vital public health and safety networks, communicate with government agencies and constituents and access and submit electronic forms and reports required under state and federal law. Currently, only schools, libraries and public facilities have access to the network. Municipal facilities should be invited to participate at connectivity rates comparable to the state. Otherwise, this may not be a cost-effective option for many communities, undermining the value of the network in Connecticut.

Clearly, town leaders, including representatives of small towns, must be included in any planning discussions relative to the deployment of broadband technology. We therefore are very pleased that the legislation includes appointments for COST and CCM on the Commission for Technology Advancement. This will ensure that municipalities are an active partner in the effort to extend broadband access to municipal buildings at reasonable rates.

We urge your strong support for SB-847.

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