



CCM 2013 Testimony

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 8, 2013

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*** House Bill 6438 "*An Act Concerning Arborists and Tree Wardens*".

This bill would establish new requirements for arborists and tree wardens – that they be licensed and adhere to continuing education requirements.

While the intention of the bill is positive, to professionalize these positions, CCM is concerned that it would impose a new unfunded mandate on either the individuals themselves or towns and cities to cover such costs for current employees.

Not all tree wardens are employees of municipalities; some provide the service to their community on a volunteer basis. Imposing new mandates on them that could be costly and time consuming may discourage some from taking on these responsibilities.

CCM urges the committee to seek mechanisms to provide such individuals with as much support as possible with minimum costs.



If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, State Relations Manager for CCM via email kwalsh-weaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 710-9525.