



# CCM 2013 Testimony

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## ***ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE***

March 22, 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.

### ***SB 1081 "An Act Concerning Recycling and Jobs."***

Among other things, this bill seeks to: (1) establish a new incentive program for municipalities to move to a pay-as-you-throw program; (2) identify opportunities for greater regional collaboration for solid waste disposal; and (3) establish a new municipal option property tax exemption.

#### **INCENTIVES FOR PAY-AS-YOU-THROW (Section 3)**

Would establish a "municipal and regional recycling incentive program" with the purpose of encouraging municipalities to move to a pay-as-you-throw" mechanism for solid waste disposal.

While CCM supports the creation of new incentive programs to assist municipalities with exploring mechanisms to improve efficiency and reduce overall costs, we are concerned that this proposal does not delineate the structure of such an incentive program or how it would be funded. Considering the current fiscal woes of the state, and our members, **CCM wants to ensure that absent funding this proposal does not become a mandate or, worse yet, siphon from another pool of funding.**

#### **REGIONAL COLLABORATION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (Section 6)**

Would require the identification for new incentives and opportunities for greater regional collaboration among municipalities for solid waste disposal.

Similar to our comments above, CCM supports the creation of new incentive programs to assist municipalities with exploring mechanisms to improve efficiency and reduce overall costs. However, we also **want to ensure that absent adequate funding to implement, such ideas do not become a mandate.**

#### **NEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION (Section 9)**

Would provide the option to municipalities to exempt from property taxes certain machinery and equipment used in connection with recycling.

**CCM opposes creating new property tax exemptions, whether mandates or local option.** A property tax reduction benefit provided to one person or entity only serves to shift the property tax burden to the other residential and business property tax payers.

***If the State feels that such entities need incentives to employ new machinery and equipment for recycling, then it should provide them directly.***

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