

# CCM 2014 Testimony

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## COMMERCE COMMITTEE

March 18, 2014

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 486, An Act Concerning Property Tax Rates In Municipalities That Contain Enterprise Zones**

CCM has concerns with SB 486.

SB 486 would allow a municipality to (1) classify real estate as (A) land or land exclusive of buildings, or (B) buildings on land, and (2) establish a different rate of property tax for each class, provided the higher rate shall apply to land or land exclusive of buildings.

CCM has concerns about the potential negative impact, and precedent, this proposal would have on local budgets.

To this end, CCM has submitted in support of HB 5545 which would, among other things, require the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee to "convene a panel of experts to conduct a thorough study of the state's tax structure." CCM supports HB 5545 as a much-needed approach for local and state officials' continuing effort to address Connecticut's overreliance on the local property tax. CCM recommends that SB 486 be a topic of analysis by the proposed study panel in order to provide the Committee more detail on potential municipal impacts.

CCM requests the Committee take no action on SB 486 until further analysis is complete.

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If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at [rcollins@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rcollins@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 707-6446.