



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Finance Committee
March 13, 2014**

HB-5464 - AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTED BY THE MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING ACCOUNT

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-5464**, which would correct an inequity in the implementation of last year's budget which limited the state revenue earmarked for municipalities under the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA).

By statute, a portion of the tax revenues from the sales, use, and real estate conveyance taxes collected on or prior to June 30, 2013 should have been deposited into MRSA and distributed to municipalities. However, municipalities did not receive their last quarter payment under MRSA.

We urge your support for **HB-5464** to correct this inequity and "keep towns whole", as intended under last year's budget.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.

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