



CCM 2014 Testimony

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FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE

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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.

House Bill 5545, "An Act Concerning a Comprehensive Study of the State's Tax Structure"

HB 5545 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 has long advocated for both tax incidence and municipal needs-capacity gap analyses. The ability to capture certain data would be critical in understanding the comprehensive impacts of the present federal-state-local tax system on individuals, families and businesses – and give insight into the capacity of each municipality and region to generate its own revenue, which is currently almost entirely from the property tax. HB 5545 would be a logical compliment to these efforts.

To this end, CCM urges the Committee to **ensure municipal Chief Executive Officials (CEOs) and a representative from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) are appointed to participate on the study panel.** As the statewide association of towns and cities, CCM is eager to work with all stakeholders involved and provide valuable municipal input for the group.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report HB 5545.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager of CCM,
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