



Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
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Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the  
Government Administration & Elections Committee  
March 3, 2014

**Re: HB-5049 - AN ACT ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT  
REGULATION.**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports efforts to eliminate unnecessary government regulations to improve the efficiency of state government and reduce burdens on municipalities and other entities. COST therefore supports the overall thrust of **HB-5049**, which repeals numerous regulations which are outdated, obsolete or otherwise unnecessary.

However, Section 33, line 1571 of the bill would repeal "22a-69-1 to 22a-69-7.4, inclusive" of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and Section 34, lines 1605-1606 of the bill, would repeal Sections 22a-69 to 22a-75, inclusive, of the general statutes. Repealing these provisions effectively shifts oversight of noise control from the state to municipalities.

Noise pollution is a serious hazard to the public health, welfare, safety and quality of life in our communities. Abruptly eliminating the state Noise Pollution Control Program will leave a significant oversight gap, jeopardizing public health and safety. According to DEEP's website, *less than half of the municipalities in Connecticut have adopted noise ordinances.*

In addition, several towns that have adopted a local noise ordinance did so because the state would provide them with the technical expertise to develop and enforce the ordinance, including providing them with equipment to measure noise levels. In order to enforce noise control ordinances, personnel conducting sound measurements must be trained in the current techniques and principles of sound-measuring equipment and instrumentation. Sound level meters must be maintained and calibrated and used in accordance with manufacturers' specifications.

Moreover, the siting of industrial wind turbines, which may emit significant noise pollution, warrants a statewide approach to noise control. However, HB-5049 repeals these provisions, increasing concerns regarding the siting of industrial wind turbines in our communities.

Although we recognize that Connecticut is facing very difficult budgetary challenges, towns are not in a position to pick up the added costs associated with enforcing noise control.

COST urges lawmakers to delete the reference to these provisions to ensure that the state continues to regulate noise pollution.

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