

**Testimony by Liz Linehan
Town Councilor, Town of Cheshire
State of Connecticut Judiciary Committee
Monday, March 17, 2014
Legislative Office Building**

Honorable Committee Members, good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am Liz Linehan, a Town Councilor for the Town of Cheshire. I am here to reiterate Cheshire Town Manager Michael Milone's testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5484 which would allow the Town of Cheshire to present a claim to the Claims Commissioner after the current one year time limitation imposed by State Statute.

As Mr. Milone explained, the State has enabling legislation that allows for claims to be submitted to the Claims Commission after time limitations by a special act if such authorization is just, equitable and would serve a public purpose.

As a representative of the residents of Cheshire, I would argue that the payment of the almost \$1.5 million owed to the Town by Department of Corrections for discharge from the prison facility that was underreported for eight years due to a faulty meter is indeed equitable and just. It serves the public purpose of ensuring that costs incurred by a state agency are appropriately borne by that agency, rather than inequitably by the taxpayers of the host community.

The prison received a service from the Town. The DOC has a contractual obligation to pay for this service, and yet it has refused to do so, even after implicitly agreeing to do so by paying the invoice for the 2011 back billing. In addition, the DOC has refused to even discuss this issue with Town officials. Cheshire is simply asking for the opportunity to present our case to the State Claims Commissioner. This legislation would allow us that opportunity.

On behalf of the taxpayers of Cheshire, I ask that you support Raised Bill Number 5458 and allow Cheshire to pursue a fair resolution to this situation.