



# CCM 2014 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-0314

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## ***LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE***

March 11, 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.

Good afternoon, my name is Leo Paul, First Selectman of the Town of Litchfield and member of the CCM Board of Directors. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today regarding:

### ***Senate Bill 318 "An Act Concerning Electronic Prevailing Wage Notices, Information and Records"***

SB 318 would allow municipalities the option to keep, maintain and preserve various mandated prevailing wage paperwork (i.e. notices, information and records) electronically, instead of in hard copy format.

As stated in testimony at last October's Prevailing Wage Informational Forum, municipal officials have long advocated for changes in the State's prevailing wage mandate that could help towns do more with less yet, still uphold the integrity and intent of the law. To this end, local officials do not seek repeal of prevailing wage rather, adjustments to the thresholds that trigger the mandate and allow towns and cities to manage limited resources. Specifically, amend CGS 31-53(g) to adjust the thresholds for (i) renovation construction projects, from \$100,000 to \$400,000; (ii) new construction projects, from \$400,000 to \$1 million; and adjust the thresholds for inflation thereafter.

Understanding certain realities however, **SB 318 is a reasonable starting point for getting this state mandate into the 21<sup>st</sup> century** by giving local officials the option to submit data and records electronically.

CCM **supports SB 318** as a logical means of making an often cumbersome process less onerous and potentially freeing-up administrative resources otherwise devoted to complying with mandated paperwork – so long as the process for submitting such information electronically is secure.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report SB 318** – and to amend the bill to adjust the thresholds that trigger the State's prevailing wage mandate as recommended above.

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager for CCM, at [rlabanara@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rlabanara@ccm-ct.org).