



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)
Before the Planning and Development Committee
March 21, 2014**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-5584: AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO STATUTES CONCERNING MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION.**

COST wants to specifically voice its support for section 10 which provides a grant to the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology in order to invest in pilot projects that will demonstrate the power and capabilities of the broadband Nutmeg Network.

The Nutmeg Network will facilitate sharing services within a town or among several towns. The Nutmeg Network will help towns to share services such data storage and back up, GIS mapping, and accounts payable by connecting accounts on the same network. Further benefits include eliminating inefficiencies and enhanced emergency response through connecting town halls and emergency operations centers with public safety facilities.

These pilot projects are a worthy investment for the state. Successful projects will help show towns how to use the Nutmeg Network to create savings and new efficiencies. The Nutmeg Network will be within every town in about 18 months time. These pilot projects are essential to help lead the way as towns explore a new tool to help conduct business.

Therefore, COST *supports* **HB-5584: AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO STATUTES CONCERNING MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION.**