



**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) *opposes* **SB-482: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF MUNICIPAL TAX LIENS TO GRANT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO CERTAIN HOMEOWNERS AND TAX ABATEMENTS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

SB-482 would allow municipalities to create property tax relief programs for the elderly and disabled and nonprofit organizations. This bill states that a municipality may choose to provide property tax relief to elderly and disabled homeowners in exchange for a tax lien on the homeowner's property. SB-482 also allows a municipality to abate the taxes due for any property owned by a nonprofit organization provided the nonprofit meets certain qualifications.

COST opposes this legislation because it would cause stress on municipal budgets at a time when finances are strained and towns have already made severe cuts to make their budgets.

COST understands that this legislation is worded as an option to municipalities. However, if this bill was made into law, there would be increased stress on municipalities to create this type of property tax relief program. COST appreciates the good intent behind this bill to help those in our population who are in need and help others. However, we oppose this bill because it will pressure towns to over extend budgets that have already been stretched to their limit.

Therefore, COST opposes **SB-482: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF MUNICIPAL TAX LIENS TO GRANT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO CERTAIN HOMEOWNERS AND TAX ABATEMENTS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**