



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)
Before the Planning and Development Committee
March 14, 2014**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-5505: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF A STATE-WIDE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.**

This bill would require the Codes and Standards Committee to recommend state-specific changes to a nationally recognized model property maintenance code. A state-wide code could help to address blight and property maintenance issues, making our communities more attractive places to work and live.

A state-wide property maintenance code would also help Connecticut by eliminating some of the discrepancies in property maintenance code from one area to another. Both following and enforcing the code would become much easier if the code was made uniform across the state. A uniform code for the state is a good goal that will help to provide satisfactory and equal regulations across Connecticut.

Therefore, COST *supports* **HB-5505: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF A STATE-WIDE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.**