



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Planning & Development Committees  
March 14, 2014**

**Re: HB-5507, AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, BUILDING OFFICIALS AND FIRE MARSHALS**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* efforts to encourage towns to voluntarily enter into shared services agreements to reduce costs and improve government efficiency. Programs such as the Regional Performance Incentive Program and the Intertown Capital Equipment Sharing program have been successful in encouraging communities to utilize regional approaches to delivering services to reduce costs.

However, some towns have encountered barriers in implementing shared services agreements, which must be addressed to provide a supportive framework for regional efforts. For example, efforts of towns to share building officials and fire marshals have been stymied by current law which limits the ability of municipalities to dismiss fire marshals and revise the terms of building officials.

Therefore, **COST supports the provisions in the bill that provide towns with more flexibility regarding the appointment and dismissal of building officials and fire marshals.** This will allow them to make changes needed in order to move forward with plans to share services to reduce municipal costs.