



CCM 2014 Testimony

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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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.

SB 404, "An Act Concerning Building Permit Fees for Class I Renewable Energy Projects and Renewable Energy Credits for Trash-to-Energy Facilities"

CCM *opposes* SB 404. This bill would prohibit municipalities from charging building permit fees for any Class I renewable energy source project.

In Public Act 11-80, language was passed that authorized municipalities to adopt a local ordinance to exempt Class I renewable energy projects from paying building permit fees. SB 404 would make it mandatory. CCM believes that if a municipality wishes to exempt these building permit fees, they should have the option to do so. Placing a requirement on a municipality to this extent could be detrimental to the financial health of each municipality.

CCM is sensitive to Class I project development from a financing perspective, and encourages communities to look to these resources to lower their electricity bills. However, keep in mind that a holistic approach needs to be taken when looking at a municipality's revenue stream; a one-size-fits-all approach cannot be taken when determining fees associated with the installation of Class I renewable energy sources, as each municipality's needs differ.

CCM urges the Committee to *oppose* this and any other proposal that mandates a reduction in building permit fees for Class I renewable energy sources.

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If you have any questions, please contact Chelsey Worth at cworth@ccm-ct.org or (203) 470-5214.