

CCM 2014 Testimony

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY 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.

HB 5389 – “An Act Concerning The Use Of An Automated Number Plate Recognition System.”

The bill would authorize the issue of license plate recognition systems and establish standards for the collection of the information. The technology affectively automates the recognition and processing of data that would otherwise be processed visually. Many towns and cities throughout Connecticut utilize these systems for law enforcement purpose, however some communities also rely on this technology for other uses, such as to help identify delinquent tax payers.

Towns and cities have set the standard in doing more with less. While the intent of HB 5389 is to ensure public safety is maintained, this proposal would impede towns and cities ability to, among other things; use such technology for the collection of taxes. Therefore, HB 5389 would essentially repeal current, prudent local public policies. Imposing such requirements could create an economic shortfall among certain communities and lead to a higher property taxes and a reduction of municipal services.

CCM recommends that HB 5389 to either (1) allow other, non public safety, use of these systems, or (2) take no action on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.