

SENATE BILL 847 TESTIMONY

Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony electronically. My name is Ralph Eno. I am First Selectman in the Town of Lyme and a member of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns Board of Directors. Both COST and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities oppose this bill.

I wish to state my personal opposition to **Senate Bill 847** as well which I understand would establish a statewide code of ethics for municipalities. First, the measure would conflict with municipal ethics ordinances already in place.

Further, disclosure requirements, which, while less onerous than those in previous iterations of ethics legislation, represent a considerable disincentive when it comes to attracting citizens to serve on boards and commissions at the local level.

The bill also represents an unfunded mandate of some as yet to be determined magnitude given the certainty of inevitable compliance reporting requirements not to mention attendant extensive state oversight .

Given the budget difficulties facing the state and the potential for cuts in municipal aid, this is not the time to be considering legislation which will certainly pass along additional costs to Connecticut's cities and towns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Ralph Eno
First Selectman
Town of Lyme