



**Testimony
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Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Planning & Development Committee
March 6, 2015**

HB-5879 - AN ACT INCREASING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LOCAL VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL

Given the ongoing fiscal challenges facing municipalities, lawmakers must refrain from mandating property tax exemptions that undermine the ability of towns to provide critical programs and services to residents without shifting more of the burden onto the backs of other property taxpayers.

COST urges lawmakers to reject HB-5879, given the impact of this bill and other proposals to abate property taxes on local revenues and the delivery of education, public health and safety services, particularly in light of continued state and local fiscal constraints.

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