



**Testimony
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Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
April 6, 2015**

HB-7036 - AN ACT CONCERNING BONDING FOR REGIONAL DOG POUNDS

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports **HB-7036** which will assist towns in establishing and maintaining regional dog pounds.

As towns struggle to fund critical services, including education, public safety and transportation, many communities are pursuing efforts to reduce costs and improve efficiency by entering into shared services agreements with neighboring communities. 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.

HB-7036 will help build on these efforts by assisting towns in funding regional animal shelters. Many towns are worried that existing animal shelters have reached capacity and do not have the funding available to expand facilities to accommodate growing needs. This program will provide towns with additional options in determining how to move forward to expand or consolidate animal shelter services, benefitting both our towns and animals in need of shelter.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.