



# CCM 2015 Testimony

800 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 582-6314

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## ***GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE***

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 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **HB 6086 "An Act Expanding the Set-Aside Program to Include the Municipalities and State Grant Programs"**

CCM has concerns with the proposal as it would be another unfunded mandate on towns and cities by requiring all municipalities to participate in the state set-aside program.

CCM empathizes with the policy goals of this proposal. However, the administrative costs may be substantial and the increased contract costs equally significant. Smaller towns which don't have a robust purchasing infrastructure, compliance with these requirements could be virtually impossible as a practical matter.

CCM is unsure how HB 6086 would interact with *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, wherein the courts ruled that federal set asides were discriminatory in a guard rail case and, therefore, local officials signing them were subject to treble damages. CCM urges the Committee to reduce municipal liability exposure by requiring the State to assume responsibility for any constitutional damage verdicts.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action on HB 6086.



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