



COMMERCE COMMITTEE
March 10, 2016

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 96% of Connecticut’s population.

SB 402 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT INFRASTRUCTURE BANK”

SB 402 would establish a quasi-public Connecticut Infrastructure Bank to assist with financing of infrastructure projects through the provision of loans and financial assistance to public and private entities.

CCM and its member towns and cities appreciate any efforts that will help maintain existing and spur the development of new infrastructure. These investments will benefit both state and local economies through the creation of jobs and by broadening the local tax base.

CCM has concerns with SB 402 as currently drafted due to lack of specific language that outlines the role, scope and powers of the proposed Infrastructure Bank.

Section 2 of the bill states:

*“The purposes of the Connecticut Infrastructure Bank shall be to assist in financing infrastructure projects by **providing loans and other financial assistance to public and private entities** in order to improve the infrastructure in the state, including, but not limited to, highways, roads, bridges, transit and intermodal systems, inland waterways, commercial ports, airports, high speed rail, energy transmission or distribution, water and wastewater treatment facilities and telecommunication.”*

The stated purpose, while well intended is broad and raises numerous questions that towns and cities would like to see addressed before the bill is considered for further action. These include but are not limited to:

- 1) Would projects that are financed by the proposed Infrastructure Bank be subject to local planning and zoning ordinances and land use regulations?

- 2) What is the relationship between municipalities and the proposed Infrastructure Bank? Furthermore, what input would a municipality have in the case of a potential investment project within their town or city?
- 3) Will projects that receive loans or financial assistance be subject to local property taxes?

CCM appreciates the opportunity to work with the Committee and the proponents of the bill, but request the Committee **take no action on SB 402** until these concerns have been addressed.



If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.