



## ***ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE***

February 19, 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. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **HB 5149, "An Act Concerning Beneficial End Uses for Discarded Tires and the Efficacy of Tire Hauling Licenses or Permits"**

CCM supports the efforts to find beneficial end uses for discarded tires.

This bill would require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to identify a beneficial end use for discarded tires and evaluate tire hauling licenses as a means to prevent the illegal disposal of tires, and consider the viability of establishing a tire stewardship program.

CCM encourages the establishment of a tire stewardship program, for which the tire producers are responsible for creating and financing, in order to (1) minimize public sector involvement in the management of discarded tires; (2) provide for free, convenient and accessible state-wide opportunities for the receipt of discarded tires; (3) provide for the free collection of discarded tires from municipal transfer stations that accumulate and segregate fewer than one hundred tires, provided any such municipal transfer station requires collection due to space or permit requirements; (4) provide for producer-financed end-of-life management for discarded tires; and (5) provide for suitable storage and transport arrangements for discarded tires, at no cost to such municipality.

It is estimated that in Connecticut more than 3.4 million tires become scrap every year. Many of these tires are illegally dumped in towns and cities, polluting the environment, producing blight and forcing municipalities to shoulder the cost of collecting, transporting and disposing of these tires.



Similar to the Mattress and Paint Stewardship and E-Waste programs preceding it, a properly designed Tire Stewardship Program would take the financial and administrative burden of end-of-life disposal for these items off the back of local governments. This is a no-cost proposal for the state and could result in significant statewide savings for municipalities.

CCM urges the Committee to favorably report HB 5149.

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If you have any questions, please contact Alexandra Beaudoin, Legislative Associate of CCM at [abeaudoin@ccm-ct.org](mailto:abeaudoin@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 670-4021.