



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 5150, "An Act Concerning Tree Wardens' Notices on Trees and Shrubs Prior to Removal, Tree Removal Along State Highways and Clean-Up by Public Utility Corporations Following Certain Tree Removal"

CCM *opposes* this bill.

This bill would, among other things, require municipal Tree Wardens to post on each tree, shrub, or group of shrubs before they are eligible for removal by the utility companies, and also require municipal Tree Wardens to conduct a public hearing if any person, firm or corporation objects to the proposed cutting or removal of any tree or shrub.

CCM has significant concerns with the bill as currently drafted. These added stipulations will prove extremely cumbersome and time consuming for municipal Tree Wardens, many of whom are part-time employees. Current state statute provides a mechanism in which customers can raise objections to tree trimming and tree removal through their municipality's Tree Warden before the Public Utility Regulatory Authority. CCM asserts that this mechanism is sufficient, and requiring additional public hearings is unnecessary.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action on HB 5150.



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