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**Before the**  
**Energy & Technology Committee**  
**March 1, 2016**

**HB-5309 - AN ACT CONCERNING FACILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL SOLAR APPLICATION**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports **HB-5309, as currently drafted**, which directs the Connecticut Green Bank to approve a standardized solar photovoltaic system permit application form for use by municipalities.

COST supports efforts to encourage energy-efficient development and the use of solar and other renewable forms of energy. We have partnered with the Connecticut Green Bank and other stakeholders to provide information to municipalities regarding how to utilize renewable energy options to reduce costs and improve energy efficiency.

As drafted, HB-5309 provides that the municipality has the *option* of using the standardized form, which is critical to our continued support for the bill. COST opposes legislation that caps local permit fees, limits opportunities for municipalities to perform needed inspections and otherwise imposes difficult compliance burdens on municipalities regarding solar PV permits.

COST is committed to continuing to work with the Connecticut Green Bank and other stakeholders to support residential solar and other renewable energy technologies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.