



Testimony
Betsy Gara, Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Insurance Committee
March 8, 2016

**SUPPORT - HB-5522 -AN ACT CONCERNING HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE POLICIES AND
COVERAGE FOR THE PERIL OF COLLAPSE**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents 115 towns throughout Connecticut, **supports HB-5522**, which requires homeowners insurance policies to provide coverage for the peril of collapse and mitigation undertaken to prevent all or part of the covered dwelling from falling down or caving in.

Thousands of homes in Connecticut have been devastated by crumbling foundations that will require hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair. Due to the huge costs associated with repairing the foundations, many residents will have no choice but to walk away.

In addition to the impact on these families, the communities will be left with hundreds of homes that cannot be sold, creating safety concerns for our residents. In addition, this will impact the grand lists in these communities, shifting more of the property tax burden to a smaller number of homeowners and businesses.

By requiring insurers to provide coverage to homeowners in these situations, HB-5522 will help address these difficult circumstances and provide some relief to these families.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns. More information is available at www.ctcost.org