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Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the GAE Committee
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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports HB-5498, An Act Concerning the Review of Existing Agency Regulations.**

Municipalities are subject to a number of state regulations, many of which include burdensome reporting requirements or other mandates. HB-5498 will revise the current process, which requires agencies to review regulations on a periodic basis, and make the process more efficient and less burdensome on state agencies. As a result, HB-5498 will help ensure that the process is appropriately utilized to help identify regulations which are outdated, duplicative or unnecessarily burdensome.

Municipal officials often point to agency red tape as a major headache. Outdated reporting requirements, and cumbersome compliance requirements impose a heavy burden on small towns and cities, particularly given the ongoing budget challenges facing our state and municipalities,

Governor Dannel Malloy issued an executive order in 2014 requesting input on outdated and inefficient regulations and received a number of comments from various entities. As a result, Governor Malloy was successful in repealing a significant number of outdated regulations. Although we applaud these efforts, we believe a more formal process is necessary to ensure that regulations are reviewed on a regular basis.

In addition to reducing the administrative burden on our small towns and cities, COST believes the bill will help support our local economies by providing a framework for reducing the regulatory burden on businesses. Strengthening our local economies by reducing regulatory burdens is of paramount importance.

COST is pleased to support HB-5498 and would like to be included in discussions on the bill as it moves forward in the process.

Thank you.

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