



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 11, 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.

SB 424 “An Act Concerning Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement for Certain Companies”

CCM opposes SB 424.

The bill while well intended would place a de facto mandate on towns and cities. SB 424 would allow for the abatement of taxes on real and personal property for certain defined technology companies for up to two years.

CCM appreciates the intent of the bill to assist the growth and development of technology related businesses, but to allow towns and cities to provide one specific industry with a tax abatement and shift the burden to other taxpayers. Additionally, the bill would create a situation where wealthy communities that can afford the lost tax revenue for two years to provide the tax abatements to lure businesses that some of our urban centers and distressed municipalities may not be able to match.

CCM would encourage the Committee to look at comprehensive solutions that will reduce the property tax burden for all residents and businesses and not pick a new winner each year.

CCM urges the Committee to **take no action on SB 424.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.