



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Environment Committee
February 23, 2018**

SB-105 - AN ACT ENSURING CONTINUING WATER SERVICE FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) ***supports*** SB-105, which authorizes the Town of Durham to withdraw up to 100,000 gallons of water per day for three consecutive days per year to serve the Durham Fair.

The Durham Fair is the state's largest agricultural fair, attracting thousands of people from throughout Connecticut and neighboring states. In addition to being a major tourist attraction for the community, the fair generates significant revenue for many non-profit organizations that are permitted to sell ice cream, hamburgers, pie, turkey legs, and other fair foods.

Recognizing that requiring a diversion permit from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) can cost thousands of dollars and take months to process, the Connecticut General Assembly adopted legislation providing the Town of Durham with a limited exemption from the diversion permitting requirements. This recognizes that a protracted permitting process is not appropriate for an event of limited duration such as the Durham Fair.

SB-105 simply extends this exemption through October 1, 2019.

COST urges the Environment Committee to support the bill.

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.