



**Testimony  
Kathryn Dube  
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Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Energy & Technology Committee  
February 21, 2019**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) opposes **SB-678, AN ACT CONCERNING MARKINGS MADE PURSUANT TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG REQUIREMENTS.**

Damage to underground facilities can cause fire and explosions, resulting in serious injuries to the public and workers. Municipal utilities recognize the importance of complying with the Call Before You Dig (CBYD) program, which requires all utilities to mark pipes, cables, etc. to ensure that excavation will not damage underground utility facilities.

We are concerned that, as proposed, the bill requires marking to be made with paint that will fade after a certain amount of time. Given the importance of accurately marking the location of utility pipes and cables, it is important that the paint does *not* become illegible prior to excavation.

Protecting the public safety is of paramount concern in performing excavations. Although utility mark-outs may be a bit unsightly, they help ensure that gas pipes, cables, etc. are not accidentally damaged, resulting in fatalities, injuries, property damage, and/or disrupting utility service.

COST urges lawmakers to oppose this bill.

Thank you.

*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.*