



# 2019 Testimony

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## *Housing Committee*

February 14, 2019

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.

### **HB 7067 An Act Concerning Housing Authority Jurisdiction**

**CCM has the following questions related to HB 7067 and requests that the Committee consider them before taking any action on the bill.**

As outlined in the bill, the Department of Housing will designate census tracts where a need for affordable housing exists and then permit local housing authorities to expand their jurisdiction in said communities. The bill creates a new definition for "*expanded area of operation*" in lines 143-148, **how will these areas of "*high or very high opportunity census tracts*" be determined? CCM would like to see a clearer explanation of how these designations will be determined. Will these designations be updated regularly?**

While we see that the neighboring municipality's approval is necessary to be included in the "Area of Operation" definition, CCM does not see any language that would consider the governing bodies input as defined in lines 36-39, for such expansion. Can housing authorities expand without the consent of the governing body of the municipality or municipalities where the census tract is located? If so, this is highly problematic. We ask that this be clarified.

**Further will there be an opportunity for a community to appeal the "*expanded area of operation*" designation as defined in lines 143-148?** For example if the designation is strictly based on economics there may not be consideration for approved developments which are yet to be built.

**CCM respectfully requests the Committee consider these questions before taking any action on HB 7067.**



If you have any questions, please contact Zachary McKeown, Legislative Associate of CCM at [zmckeown@ccm-ct.org](mailto:zmckeown@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 462-9556 or Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager of CCM at [dhamzy@ccm-ct.org](mailto:dhamzy@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 843-0705.