



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 6, 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 99% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 986 AAC *The Connecticut Port Authority*

CCM would ask the Committee to consider adopting language that ensures that the host municipality is included in any discussions or negotiations that would result in the acquisition or sale of land by the CT Port Authority.

The need for language that clarifies the role of a host municipality was recently highlighted when the CT Port Authority granted a private for-profit company a long-term lease to operate the State Pier in New London. This deal originally included provisions for the Port Authority to receive \$750,000 annually in addition to 10% of any profit generated by the operation of the port. The host city of New London would have received their existing PILOT funding of approximately \$250,000 and had little if any input regarding the terms of the contract or reimbursement to the city which is responsible for providing police and fire service in addition to infrastructure maintenance. Fortunately, follow on discussions between the city, the Port Authority and the Governor's office allowed for additional compensation to be allocated to the city.

While, CCM is supportive of the CT Port Authority and its efforts to improve our deep water ports and facilitate economic development around these assets, we need to ensure that our host municipalities are included in any discussions to buy, sell, or lease property within their city. Increasing collaboration will benefit the host municipality and the Port Authority by ensuring any development is aligned with the economic development goals of both entities and that the plans are mutually supporting and reduce friction.

CCM looks forward to working with the Committee and the Port Authority to ensure that all parties have adequate representation concerning the development of local property.

★★★★

If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr., Advocacy Manager, at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3000