



**Testimony
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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports** **HB-6646 - AN ACT CONCERNING CRUMBLING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS.**

Thousands of families in small towns throughout northeastern Connecticut have been devastated by the discovery that their homes have crumbling foundations because the concrete used contains pyrrhotite, which has compromised the structure. The cost of repairing the foundation, which some estimate can range from \$150,000 - \$250,000, may exceed the equity in or the value of the home, leaving owners with very few options.

In addition to the devastating impact on homeowners, towns have seen sizable drops in their grand lists because of the lower assessment value of these homes. Some towns are also worried that because people can't afford the repairs and can't sell the properties, they will end up abandoning their homes. Abandoned properties that may be in danger of collapse create serious public safety concerns.

We appreciate the legislature's tremendous efforts in adopting legislation to assist families in addressing these issues.

HB-6646 will build on these efforts by extending the life of the captive insurance company, requiring quarries to annually prepare a geological source report, and requiring the state Department of Consumer Protection to develop standards to ensure that concrete used in residential homes is free of pyrrhotite or any other contaminant that can result in structural failure.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.