



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Appropriations Committee  
February 28, 2025**

**RE: HB-7061 - AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATORY MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents 115 smaller communities throughout Connecticut, ***opposes*** HB-7061, which prohibits municipalities from imposing mandatory minimum parking requirements for any development in a municipality.

Municipalities are committed to ensuring the public safety of residents and visitors to their communities. In areas with inadequate parking, vehicles may be parked haphazardly, blocking access, including emergency access, to properties, fire hydrants, loading docks, etc. and undermining site lines needed to cross roads safely. Other vehicles may be parked on roadways preventing municipalities from plowing and maintaining roads in safe conditions.

COST therefore opposes efforts to prohibit municipalities from establishing minimum parking requirements. Municipalities have the authority to eliminate or modify minimum parking requirements and some are exploring this option. The municipalities are in the best position to determine whether eliminating or modifying minimum parking requirements will pose any public safety or other issues in their community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in opposition to HB-7061.