



TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports Raised Senate Bill 5240 "An Act Concerning Affordable Housing Developments in Environmentally Regulated Areas."

This bill would provide an exemption from the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Act (CGS Section 8-30g) for areas of land where local, state or federal regulations - intended to protect the natural environment or natural resources - prohibit or substantially limit any development.

The Act, which was adopted in 1989, placed the burden of proof on municipal commissions to show that the denial or required modification of an affordable housing application should be upheld by the Courts. This has placed a sometimes insurmountable obstacle to protecting certain lands from development.

Passage of this proposal would, at the very least, ensure that environmentally sensitive lands continue to be protected.

CCM urges the committee to ***favorably report*** this bill.

##

If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.