



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

March 3, 2008

**CCM opposes Raised House Bill 5719 - “An Act Concerning STEAP Grants and the Conversion of Prime Farmland to Nonagricultural Use.”**

This bill would restrict the use of Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant funds for any project that would convert 25 acres or more of prime farmland to a non-agricultural use, with certain exceptions.

CCM has been active in measures that would help to protect farmland across Connecticut. Our members understand and value the protection of these properties. However, this bill would usurp the authority of communities to make the economic development and land protection decisions that best meets the needs of the residents.

The potential conversion of any greenspace for economic development purposes is not something that municipalities take lightly. It is a decision that involves considerable evaluation of the current and future needs of the community as a whole. Municipal residents have the ability to weigh in on such projects and the final decision should be left to the community.

CCM urges the committee to ***take no action*** on this bill.

## ## ##

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