



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 12, 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 provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports Raised House Bill 5477 "An Act Concerning the Clean Water Act and Streamflow Regulations".

CCM, among many others, has had significant concerns about the impact the DEP proposed Streamflow Regulations would have on local governments. It is important that the protection of the environment be balanced with the needs to sustain needed services and the financial limits of those burdened by the regulations.

CCM's has had concerns about the regulations, which would impose costly burdens on towns and cities by increasing the local administrative burden to enforce; impact public health and public safety; undermine Connecticut's economic recovery and job growth; and, divert resources away from needed infrastructure improvements. CCM offers to explain our concerns to the Committee in more detail if you would like us to do so.

We are in an era of financial limits for local governments - a time when we must make choices, say no to things that we can no longer afford, and find less-expensive ways to do business.

This bill would ensure that streamflow issues be addressed in the most comprehensive manner by requiring the three agencies (DEP, DPH, and DPUC), with overlying regulatory authority in areas that would be impacted by the regulations, to work together to craft a plan that works best for the state as a whole.

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

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