



TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (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 the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

R.B. 5269, "An Act Concerning Delinquent Property Taxes"

CCM opposes this bill.

R.B. 5269 would remove the uniformity that exists across the State that requires property tax delinquents to pay a late payment penalty of 18%.

CCM does not understand the rationale behind this proposal, particularly at a time when local budgets are stretched to the limit and every penny counts.

Just like the assessment procedure to determine the value of property is determined by a statewide process, so should the delinquent tax penalty.

If the intent of the bill is to assist those who owe delinquent taxes, municipal officials, those closest to the residents of communities, try to work with persons who owe delinquent taxes. Further, local appeals processes are in place to accommodate those aggrieved by assessments.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action on this proposal.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM, at (203) 498-3000.