**Testimony**

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**Before the Planning & Development Committee**

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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) appreciates the opportunity to comment in ***support*** of **SB-333 - AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL CHARTER REVISIONS.**

SB-333 repeals legislation adopted late last session which prohibited municipalities from modifying certain local charter provisions pertaining to (1) planning and zoning commissions, (2) the process of eminent domain, and (3) the disposition of municipal property.

Although it is our understanding that the language adopted last session was intended to apply only to the City of Stamford, as approved, the provisions affect the ability of the 109 municipalities that have local charters to revise those charters. In addition, the language has created issues for a few municipalities that are currently in the process of revising their charters.

Town charters define the powers and functions of municipal officials and set forth the organization and procedures of local government. Pursuant to Section 7-188 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the charter revision process provides the public and town officials with ample opportunity to review, discuss, and vote on charter revisions provisions.

Accordingly, COST supports SB-333 which repeals the language adopted last session to ensure that municipalities have the authority to revise their charters to address local governance issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the bill.