



Testimony
Betsy Gara, Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Housing Committee
March 3, 2026

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **opposes SB-334 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF FAIR RENT COMMISSIONS**, which requires that fair rent commissions consist of an equal number of landlords and residential tenants.

Although we recognize that Fair Rent Commissions should include balanced representation, we are concerned that towns may find it difficult to ensure that such commissions have an equal number of landlords and tenants.

Towns are struggling to find volunteers to serve on boards and commissions. Under a sweeping housing reform bill adopted last November in special session, municipalities with a population of 15,000 or more are required to adopt an ordinance creating a Fair Rent Commission, participate in a joint commission with contiguous municipalities, or join a Fair Rent Commission established by its regional Council of Government (COG).

Towns are ramping up efforts to comply with the extensive planning requirements included in Public Act 25-1, including determining whether to join a Fair Rent Commission with a neighboring municipality or a commission established by a COG, if the COG decides to establish a commission.

Given difficulties in finding volunteers to serve on boards and commissioner, SB-334 will make it harder for municipalities required to establish a Fair Rent Commission to comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in **opposition** to **SB-334**.