

Town & City

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New ally found in the fight against mandates

A grassroots movement of municipal officials from across the state is a new ally in the fight for relief from the burden of costly state mandates.

For years CCM and other municipal advocates have pointed out the ways in which unfunded and under-funded state mandates drive up the cost of local government. The new group, the Connecticut Municipal Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility, grew out of the wave of taxpayer discontent and local budget defeats seen in the past few years.

Its grassroots membership includes members of local boards of finance, boards of education, town councils and other municipal officials who agree that mandates reform is key to the long-term fiscal health of towns and cities.

The group is focusing on the same three mandates-reform measures that CCM is targeting this year:

- Raising the cost thresholds on capital projects under prevailing wage laws

continued on page 4

New ally helps fight costly state mandates

continued from page 1

- Binding arbitration reform
- Prohibiting new mandates placed on communities.

CCM advocacy staff has been working with the new group's leadership to find ways to best coordinate efforts. The group's grassroots network can help augment and strengthen CCM's strong research and state capitol advocacy on mandates reform.

For more information about the Consortium, contact Michael Guarco, Chairman, Granby Board of Finance, at Budgetguru06035@aol.com. ■