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CCM Asks Senate To Amend “M.O.R.E. Commission” bill

"The MORE Commission has proven a useful initiative, placing state and local officials alongside one another to identify efficiencies," stated Jim Finley, Executive Director and CEO of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). "While the group's final product, House Bill 6629, does not reflect all of CCM's priorities (including substantive mandates relief) -- improved access to the state's broadband network and creating tax analysis capabilities are very positive outcomes."

"However, as CCM voiced during the MORE Commission deliberations, and was the consensus of the relevant subcommittees, CCM opposes the proposal to eliminate local revenue levied from the tax on motor vehicles -- without concrete assurance of a reliable, supplemental funding source. The debate was never about the fairness of the car tax, which all agreed is inequitable, yet it was how do we keep our hometowns from going over a fiscal cliff by eliminating a \$700 million critical revenue stream.

"To this point, we're not convinced HB 6629 would protect towns -- and we again, request that the State Senate oppose this provision, and that the M.O.R.E. Commission take the necessary time, after session, to further consider all options. Additionally, the group should revisit, in the off-session, the provisions of HB 6629 that would mandate all regional planning organizations (RPOs) and Councils of Elected Officials be reduced in number (from 14 to 8) and become Councils of Government. Regionalism is at its best when allowed a certain degree of flexibility via a voluntary approach - and not a new state mandate on local communities" concluded Finley.