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Executive Director and CEO: James J. Finley, Jr.

October 16, 2012

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Governor of Connecticut
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) greatly appreciates your continued support for the municipal bottom-line during these challenging fiscal times. You have protected property taxpayers and invested in communities. Your groundbreaking initiative to share state revenue with towns and cities, coupled with the opportunity for your ECS Task Force to recommend an overhaul of our education-finance system, can build a strong foundation on which to achieve substantive property tax reform.

As you prepare your FY 15 biennial budget, we respectfully urge you to remain steadfast in protecting and expanding municipal aid and revenue sharing.

We also urge you to continue your essential work toward comprehensive education reform by proposing significant education finance reform, in order to correct chronic state underfunding of PreK-12 public education. As your ECS Task Force has discussed, the ECS grant formula needs a significant overhaul and updating, and the special education system is in dire need of reform. Both regular and special education programs need increased state funding that can be phased in over time.

We ask you to also continue your opposition to unfunded and underfunded state mandates. As you well know, unfunded state mandates burden residential and business property taxpayers with significant costs and siphon precious local resources from service needs. There are currently over 1,200 state mandates on municipalities in Connecticut.

The future of our great state depends on strong, vibrant communities, and young people equipped to assume the job, civic and other opportunities and responsibilities of the future.

Towns and cities are committed to working with you to improve the quality of life for all Connecticut residents.

I will contact your office to set up a meeting to discuss these issues further.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to towns and cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Finley, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

James J. Finley, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO

cc: Chief of Staff Mark Ojakian
OPM Secretary Ben Barnes