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Press Advisory

TO: Newspaper and Online Reporters and Editors,

Bloggers, and TV and Radio News Directors and Reporters

Press availability: Tuesday afternoon, March 5, 1 p.m.

After CCM-member mayors meet with the House Speaker to press for changes in Governor's proposed

Key mayors from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) will be available to the news media on Tuesday, March 5, at 1 p.m. following a meeting with Brendan Sharkey, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and before a 2 p.m. meeting with Donald Williams, President of the State Senate. The press availability will take place outside the House Speaker's Office (Room 4100) on the fourth floor office of the State Legislative Office Building.

The mayors and CCM will push for the General Assembly leaders to reject:

- The unprecedented changes in the structure of state grants and payments-in-lieu-of-taxes reimbursements to cities and towns, as presented in the Governor's proposed budget.

- Towns and cities losing \$128 million in state aid that helps fund non-education operating expenses. State aid has been diverted to education and capital programs.
- The proposed elimination of the property tax on motor vehicles, without providing state funding reimbursement to municipalities – that would result in at least a \$633 million loss in local revenues annually

Meeting with the Speaker of the House and the Senate President will be:

- Jim Finley, CCM Executive Director and CEO
- William Finch, Mayor of Bridgeport and First Vice President of CCM
- Neil O’Leary, Mayor of Waterbury
- John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor of New Haven and Past President of CCM