

Reprinted from: CCM/ccm-ct.org

Date: May 21, 2013

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, May 21, 2013
Jim Finley (203) 804-6895
Kevin Maloney (203) 710-3486

CCM Responds to MORE Commission Recommendations Presented By House Speaker Brendan Sharkey

Jim Finley, Executive Director and CEO of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) today said that, "CCM applauds Speaker Sharkey for placing many important issues affecting towns and cities on the forefront of the General Assembly's agenda. The recommendations released today by the MORE Commission include several priorities long advocated by municipal officials. CCM supports (1) affordable access to, and a municipal voice on, the state Nutmeg Network (which can be the platform for increased information sharing and regional cooperation); (2) the reform of the onerous "legal notices" mandate; (3) establishment of a tax incidence capability (which will allow CT for the first time to analyze the impacts on individuals, families and businesses of the current, as well as proposed changes to, the state-local revenue system); (4) the creation of 5 new metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); (5) creation of a common school calendar with appropriate local flexibility; (6) more coordinated regional delivery of human services; and (7) allowing towns at local option to indicate on tax bills the municipal and education portions. These are very positive initiatives that can benefit towns and cities and local property taxpayers.

"As with any legislative proposals, details and data are critical. To this end, CCM re-emphasizes the need for tax incidence analyses to precede any changes to our state-local revenue system, particularly proposals to phase-out the property tax on motor vehicles. To "fly data blind" in pursuit of this initiative would be a disservice to the hard work of the Commission.

"CCM remains committed to working with the Commission on several recommendations to examine, in more detail, the prevailing wage thresholds, alternative energy school buses, and the MBR mandate.

"CCM looks forward to working with legislators and leaders on both of sides of the aisle during the final weeks of the session to enact proposals to strengthen the state-local partnership."