April 2, 2020

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor of Connecticut
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

CCM appreciates your leadership during the most challenging time facing Connecticut in modern times. You’ve included CCM in discussions regarding your municipal-related Executive Orders. It’s been an approach that has greatly benefitted towns and cities, especially now as they struggle to protect and serve residents during a deadly pandemic.

As you know, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law, the CARES Act, H.R. 748, a $2 trillion emergency package intended to stave off total economic collapse in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. The law allocates considerable funding to states to combat the scourge.

We urge you to provide meaningful state CARES funding to cities and towns. As you so aptly stated recently: "Mayors and first selectmen are the closest on the ground to each community, and the best approach for our state is to have a unified strategy on COVID-19 with our city and town leaders.” Local officials are using untold resources and person-power to fight the COVID-19 scourge -- unbudgeted resources. Many communities that are part of the state epicenter of the crisis, like New Haven, were facing big deficits before the pandemic.

The CARES law, among other things, provides direct funding to local governments with populations over 500,000. As you well know, no municipality in Connecticut comes close to that threshold. However, according to the US Treasury, a State could make a grant to a subgrantee such as a unit of local government that does not have a population that exceeds 500,000. States can pass the money through as long as the funds are used in the same way as it is used by the States. Use of funds is outlined in subsection (d) of Section 601.
We would like to discuss this essential revenue sharing proposal with you and your staff. Sharing federal resources could help municipalities contain the virus, maintain law and order and meet other overwhelming and unbudgeted demands of the pandemic.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joe DeLong
Executive Director & CEO

cc: Martin Heft, Acting Undersecretary, Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division