



# CCM 2013 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-8314

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## ***PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE***

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **H.B. 6629, "An Act Concerning Regionalism in Connecticut"**

As the Committee knows, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is in the process of conducting a study and making recommendations regarding regional planning organization (RPO) boundaries. Recommendations are due by January 2014.

OPM is to, among other things, conduct an evaluation of "opportunities for coordinated planning and regional delivery of state and local services," which would include the ten issues specified in Public Act 12-1 (Special Session, Section 189).

OPM has been working on the study for more than 2 years. Regional planning organizations have been submitting self-evaluations. OPM has met with several interested parties, including CCM.

**We recommend the Committee receive the results of the OPM study before determining regional boundaries.**

In the meantime, there are things the State could do *right now* to encourage intermunicipal cooperation:

- Maintain funding for the Regional Performance Incentive Grant for regional initiatives and increase start-up funds for RPOs that voluntarily consolidate.
- Increase state reinvestment in planning and technical assistance capacity at OPM to assist RPOs and municipalities in collaborative efforts.

These measures will help ensure that towns and cities have the tools they need to voluntarily consolidate.

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If you have any questions, please contact Ron Thomas at [rthomas@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rthomas@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 498-3000.