LAW OFFICES

LIVINGSTON, ADLER, PULDA, MEIKLEJOHN & KELLY, P.C.

557 PROSPECT AVENUE • HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-2922
TELEPHONE: (860) 233-9821 • FAX (860) 232-7818
WWW.LAPM.ORG

C-126

DANIEL E. LIVINGSTON
GREGG D. ADLER
THOMAS W. MEIKLEJOHN
MARY E. KELLY
HENRY F. MURRAY
NICOLE M. ROTHGEB*

OF COUNSEL
PETER GOSELIN

*ALSO ADMITTED IN MASSACHUSETTS

RUTH L. PULDA
1955-2008

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL:
(860) 570-4625

delivingston@lapm.org

March 31, 2016

Leonard A. Fasano, Senate Minority Leader
Themis Klarides, House Republican Leader

Dear Senator Fasano and Representative Klarides:

Your letter supporting the state's breaking its binding contractual commitments to its public service workers was forwarded to the Coalition for response. We note your new-found concern for the state employees you have vilified for two decades, and your insistence that there should be a new "tax" on working families who provide public services so that we can avoid asking far less on a percentage basis from those who can truly afford to pay – the 1% who are the only ones moving forward in this economy. On the question of whether we should engage in discussions designed to allow the state to break its binding contractual commitments, we will continue to be guided by our democratically elected rank and file leadership structures, rather than by the appeals of self-interested politicians of either party.

While we profoundly disagree with the governor on many things in the current budget situation, it is true that the root cause of the state's budget woes is the "new economy" – an economy rigged to favor a tiny minority of Connecticut residents. In this rigged economy, our state and local governments have a job to do. We need to make sure that our communities and our private economy have the essential public structures they need to thrive – good schools, safety at home and in the workplace, clean air, and much more. Our state needs to help protect our most vulnerable citizens, and needs to do more to help the 99% of us who are struggling to move forward when all the wealth is drifting towards the 1%.

For too many years, your caucus has voted in lock step: No on protecting the services people need, no on taxing those who can afford to pay, no on clean contracting, no on equal opportunity, no on virtually anything that could help the struggling 99% move forward. When and if you respect the struggles of working families, private and public, and the positive role our government must play in those struggles, we look forward to working with you to make Connecticut a better, stronger and fairer state.

On Behalf of SEBAC Leadership,

Daniel E. Livingston

drc