

- ▶▶ AFT Connecticut
- ▶▶ American Association of University Professors – Connecticut State University
- ▶▶ American Association of University Professors – UCONN
- ▶▶ American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees - Council 4
- ▶▶ Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges/ SEIU Local 1973
- ▶▶ Connecticut Association of Prosecutors
- ▶▶ Connecticut Employees Union Independent/ SEIU Local 511
- ▶▶ Connecticut Federations of School Administrators Local 61
- ▶▶ Connecticut Police and Fire Union/IAFF-IUPA
- ▶▶ Connecticut State Police Union
- ▶▶ CSEA SEIU Local 2001
- ▶▶ International Brotherhood of Police Officers/SEIU Local 731
- ▶▶ New England Healthcare Employees Union, District 1199/SEIU

March 26, 2010

Robert L. Genuario, Secretary  
State of Connecticut  
Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Secretary Genuario:

We are in receipt of your letter of March 23. You reiterate the administration's interest in "dealing with the budgetary situation through collective bargaining changes."

That's a deceptively mild term for gutting dozens of collective bargaining agreements, a pension and healthcare agreement that lasts until July of 2017, and of course SEBAC 2009, the \$700 million dollar concessions and savings agreement we reached just last year. You also say this is necessary because budgetary "conditions have not improved and have indeed become worse."

Indeed. But what has really not improved -- except for the wealthy few in our state -- is the recession and the havoc it is wreaking on Connecticut's working families and middle class. The "budgetary situation" is just a symptom of that underlying recession.

Unfortunately, none of this was unexpected. Because both sides acknowledged during the negotiations that things likely could get worse, we built provisions into SEBAC 2009 that included a further delay in Pay Equity adjustments and additional deferral of pension payments. We also included a commitment to meet and discuss some of the "win/win" ideas we had presented to the Administration in early 2009 and which had been summarily rejected.

We kept that commitment when we met in January of 2010, although the Rell Administration continues to show no interest in the practical ideas of frontline workers, state payroll tax savings through flexible spending accounts, or any of the other "win/win" proposals we shared with you.

Where the sides really differed in the winter and spring of 2009 was in the Administration's faith that it could somehow cut its way out of the budget crisis, and our warning that Nobel Prize-winning economists all agreed that approach was economic suicide. This continues to be our position. In fact, we told you in writing in February of 2009 that while our members were willing to be part of the solution to Connecticut's economic and budgetary woes:

*The supposedly easier alternative of cutting public services not only abandons Connecticut's people just when they need services the most - thereby building up more costs that will need to be paid in the future - it **makes the economy worse, which will only cause more suffering and future budget crises.***

As you know, while we were able to reach agreement on the collective bargaining issues in April of 2009, you were very clear that you were completely uninterested in our view of economics or public policy. Even though the very rich in Connecticut pay about half as much as a percentage of their income on state and local taxes as the middle class does -- and that's still true even with the recent small tax increase on those making over 1 million dollars per year -- the governor went on to insist on a budget that included only that small tax increase for Connecticut's richest few, and had billions in public service cuts. This drew demand and resources away from the private sector economy, and will cost Connecticut's economy as many as 50,000 additional jobs -- a 50% increase in Connecticut's already spiraling unemployment rate.

And in the predictable vicious cycle, Connecticut's economy continues to struggle, and we now have a new budget crisis.

And once again the governor demands cuts from public service workers, and by cutting crucial public services and projects, seeks to take further resources away from Connecticut's struggling private sector economy. All this will just perpetuate the vicious cycle of decline still more.

It remains our belief that a fairer tax structure could give Connecticut the resources it needs for a real jobs creation program -- but it's not our place to discuss those things, you've told us. We have ideas to open up the state healthcare plan to municipalities and non-profits and small businesses. Also not our place, you say. We have ideas to explore a defined benefit plan open to all Connecticut small businesses, ideas for a jobs corps modeled on the WPA of the 1930's, and, of course, ideas to help bring in the millions in federal funding Connecticut continues to leave on the table. All of these are not our place, you say.

Well it is also not our place to tear up a collective bargaining agreement reached less than a year ago so that the millionaires can continue paying half as much of their income in state and local taxes as struggling working families pay.

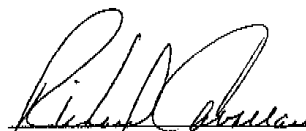
So we decline your invitation to "deal with the budgetary situation through collective bargaining changes," not simply because it is unfair, but because it would only make the real problems of this state worse.

Should you wish to honor the SEBAC 2009 agreement and explore "win/win" ideas that could help streamline and improve services, and provide crucially needed resources for programs upon which Connecticut's people depend, please let us know, and we'd be happy to meet with you. In the meantime, along with many others, we will continue fighting for an economy that works, and for living wages, decent benefits, and a dignified retirement for all of Connecticut's working families.

Sincerely yours,



Ed Marth, Executive Director  
University of Connecticut-  
American Association of University Professors



Richard Cavallaro, President AFSA local 61



John Doyle, President  
Connecticut Association of Prosecutors



Joe Gaetano, President  
International Brotherhood of Police Officers  
Service Employees International Union, Local 731

*Sal Luciano*

Salvatore Luciano, Executive Director  
American Federation of State, County  
and Municipal Employees - Council 4

*Steve Rief*

Steve Rief, President  
Connecticut State Police Union

*David J. Walsh*

David Walsh, President  
Connecticut State University-  
American Association of University Professors

*Thomas Culley*

Thomas Culley, State Council Vice President  
AFT-Connecticut

*Ron McLellan*

Ron McLellan, President  
Connecticut Employees Union Independent  
Local 511, SEIU

*William J. Boucher*

William J. Boucher, President  
Connecticut Police and Fire Union/IAFF-IUPA

*Steven Cohen*

Steven Cohen, President  
Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges,  
SEIU, Local 1973

*Carmen Boudier*

Carmen Boudier, President  
SEIU Healthcare, 1199NE

*Robert Rinker*

Robert Rinker, Director  
Connecticut State Employees Association,  
Service Employees International Union, Local 2001

*Catherine Osten*

Catherine Osten, President  
Connecticut State Employees Association,  
Service Employees International Union, Local 2001

*Daniel E. Livingston*

Daniel E. Livingston, Chief Negotiator  
State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition