



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

January 18, 2019

Office of Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Governor Lamont:

Last weekend, the Stratford community experienced an enormous loss. The Shakespeare Theater, an artistic and cultural icon, burned to the ground. As advocates for the theater, and for many of us with deep ties to the theater, this loss is truly devastating.

In the past, many of us have submitted requests for state bonding assistance to restore the long shuttered theater. We have requested various amounts under previous administrations with our most recent requests ranging from \$1.5 million to \$5 million. Given the extreme damage and destruction that occurred this past weekend, we would like to submit a unified request for \$5 million in bonding assistance to help mitigate the extensive fire damage and rebuild a new icon to honor this incredible piece of history.

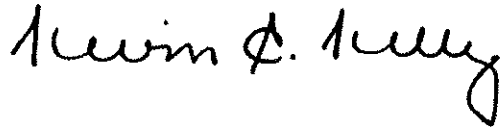
The Shakespeare Theater was once one of Connecticut's top tourist destinations. It was home to famed performances by national legends in the arts. It has a special place in the history of not only Stratford, but also of our entire state. Rebuilding would be an opportunity to revitalize the arts, boost our economy and commemorate an integral piece of our history.

Sen. Kelly grew up working in the theater alongside his mother and aunt, Representatives Gresko and Young as long time Stratford residents have a deep appreciation for the local landmark in their hometown, and Representative McGorty is committed to supporting the arts in all the communities he represents including Stratford. That is why we are together asking for this needed state support.

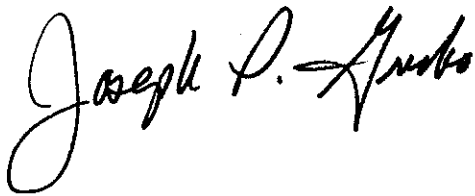
If you would like to further discuss the value of the theater and the importance of rebuilding the icon please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kevin D. Kelly in black ink.

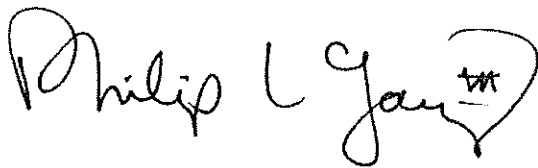
Senator Kevin Kelly (R-21)

Handwritten signature of Joseph P. Gresko in black ink.

Representative Joe Gresko (D-121)

Handwritten signature of Ben McGorty in black ink.

Representative Ben McGorty (R-122)

Handwritten signature of Philip L. Young in black ink.

Representative Phil Young (D-120)

CC: Secretary Melissa McCaw, Office of Policy & Management