



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

April 23, 2018

Senator Martin Looney
President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300

Representative Joseph Aresimowicz
Speaker of the House
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100

Senator Looney and Speaker Aresimowicz:

We are reaching out because we need to begin leadership negotiations to address the fiscal year 2019 budget deficit of over \$320 million.

In order to negotiate a bipartisan budget fix, we need to fully understand your budget. While the Democrat proposal released by the Appropriations Committee represents the appropriations side of the budget, it does not include a revenue proposal and based on the information we have it appears that your budget calls for \$420 million in new taxes. While the appropriations proposal details what you want to spend money on, it does not identify where that money is coming from. A complete budget, like the Republican proposal, includes both the appropriations and revenue sides of a budget. In order to have productive negotiations, we are requesting that you provide us with your complete budget proposal, including appropriations and revenue so that we fully understand what your priorities are and what your complete vision is for the state of Connecticut. It is impossible to negotiate from half a budget if we do not know what your priorities are in regard to the issues that are most difficult to overcome. Therefore, in order to negotiate this budget, please provide us with the itemization of those revenues that you anticipate collecting with dollar figures for each.

In addition, from the Office of Fiscal Analysis' calculation, your appropriations proposal includes spending that is above the spending cap we all agreed to adopt in a historic bipartisan vote last year. Therefore, we would ask that you provide information to correct OFA if they are in error or provide a revised budget that is within the state spending cap.

It is obvious we all agree to support core services and reject many of the governor's cuts to these priority programs. The real issue we need to negotiate is how we propose paying for these changes. Republicans have shared our complete plan so you know exactly where we stand on spending cuts and revenue changes. We do not know where Democrats stand on these key issues because we only have seen a Democrat Appropriations package. In order to have a productive negotiation, we need to know your priorities on both the spending and revenue sides of the budget. It is useless to negotiate with half a document.

The reason it took us so long to negotiate a bipartisan budget last year was because your incomplete proposal made it difficult to find common ground. We don't have the luxury of that time this year.

We look forward to receiving this information so that legislative leaders can work together in an earnest effort to identify our differences and negotiate from there to reach a solution that is in the best interest of the state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Len Fasano', with a stylized, overlapping structure.

Len Fasano
Senate Republican President Pro Tempore

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Themis Klarides', written in a cursive style.

Themis Klarides
House Republican Leader