



State of Connecticut

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July 16, 2019

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

Dear Governor Lamont:

I am writing to you today in response to a letter you sent to Democrat legislative leaders on July 10, 2019 regarding your non-public negotiations on a state bonding package.

Your letter makes it clear that your administration and Democrat legislative leaders are working behind closed doors with zero transparency to determine who gets over \$1.6 billion in annual state bonding, blowing through your “debt diet.”

I have asked for copies of the bonding package you and Democrats are negotiating without Republicans, and despite your repeated claims that you operate with an “open door” policy, I have received nothing from your budget office. The only thing my caucus has received is notice that we will be voting on a bonding package in less than a week – a bonding package that the public has no idea what it contains.

Your letter to Democrat leaders also states that you are on board with the Democrat lawmakers’ plans to abandon your “debt diet” and borrow at least \$300 million more annually for the projects they want to fund.

Your letter does not ask Democrats’ to respect your debt diet. Your letter does not ask that the additional bonding of \$300 million be put toward transportation. Your letter simply agrees to give in to Democrat lawmakers, abandon your debt diet, give Democrats more bonding money to play with, and specifies only one caveat: they must give you a very small portion of that extra bonding just so you can make it look like transportation is a priority.

The reality is \$100 million in bonding is nowhere near what we need for transportation. It is not even enough to offset the cuts your budget made to transportation – stealing \$172 million from the STF and canceling \$250 million in annual transportation bonding. It is a ruse to give Democrats an additional \$200 million in bonding, for whatever political negotiations you are working on behind the scenes.

Governor Lamont, if you do not intend to adopt a plan like Prioritize Progress that dedicates bonding to specific needs in the light of day with full transparency, then you need to stand strong on your debt diet.

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You need to tell Democrat lawmakers you will veto a bonding package that exceeds your "diet." Or, you need to pursue a comprehensive, transparent bonding plan like Prioritize Progress.

Unfortunately, your letter to Democrats did not do either. Your pitch was a capitulation to Democrat lawmakers who are looking for more bonding for pet projects. You are giving in to their wants under the guise of transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Len Fasano', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader