



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

September 18, 2019

Senator Martin Looney
President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Senator Bob Duff
Senate Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Joe Aresimowicz
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Matt Ritter
House Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 3004
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Legislative Leaders:

You are aware of our recent requests for a special session to fix the grocery store tax on prepared meals. Though the Governor has called on the Department of Revenue Services to re-interpret Public Act 19-117 and to issue a Policy Statement to supersede Policy Statement 2019(5), such executive action is incomplete and inadequate. Moreover, it is a dangerous precedent to set to allow legislation to be reinterpreted during closed-door meetings of the executive branch. Therefore, we will be reaching out to your members to ask them to join us in petitioning for a special session. A draft of that petition is attached.

Businesses need certainty to operate effectively. Simply reinterpreting a change to our statutes does not provide them with the certainty they need. Just look at the restaurant industry and the quandary they are in having relied on Department of Labor guidance to interpret Department of Labor Regulations only to be told by a court that the guidance was wrong and that they are liable for millions of dollars. If grocery stores are to have the confidence they need to not impose the tax then we, the General Assembly, must give it to them by undoing the changes made to statute when the budget was enacted.

We trust you will join us in this petition drive. We look forward to working with you in restoring confidence in government with our fellow citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Len Fasano".

Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Themis Klarides".

Themis Klarides
House Republican Leader