

M. Jodi Rell
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 29, 2010

The Honorable Donald E. Williams, Jr.
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Honorable Christopher G. Donovan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Honorable Martin M. Looney
Senate Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Honorable Denise Merrill
House Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 4106
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Honorable John McKinney
Senate Minority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 3400
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Honorable Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr.
House Minority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 4200
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Senators Williams, Looney and McKinney and Representatives Donovan, Merrill and Cafero:

This letter summarizes the outcome of our conversation of yesterday morning concerning the changes to the State's campaign finance laws to which we all agreed, pending the approval of your respective caucuses.

Before itemizing those changes, however, let me state my unwavering support for the Citizens' Election Program (CEP). I am as committed to this program today as I was back in 2005 when I first proposed it. This program, which was passed with bipartisan support, has been used successfully by both Republicans and Democrats and has restored integrity and dignity to Connecticut's election process. I am determined, therefore, to address the problems identified by the U.S. Court of Appeals and the District Court in a manner which will preserve and strengthen the CEP.

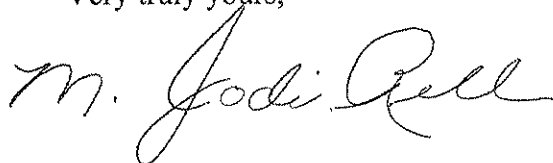
Yesterday, we agreed with the provisions of LCO # 5888 concerning the severability clause and the repeal of those statutory provisions that the court found to be unconstitutional. We also agreed to ban bundling of campaign contributions by lobbyists and to limit lobbyist contributions to \$100, regardless of the office that the candidate is seeking and whether the candidate is participating in the CEP. Finally, we agreed to consider enacting additional restrictions on lobbyist contributions provided such restrictions do not raise constitutional questions.

Let me also reiterate that I do not believe the base grant for candidates for statewide office should be increased and repeat my commitment to veto any bill containing such increases. If you decide to act on a provision of this sort, I would encourage you to place that provision in a separate bill, so as not to jeopardize the provisions of the bill containing the measures on which we have agreed. At a time when we are facing a huge budget deficit, expect to borrow approximately \$700 million to pay our expenses for the current fiscal year and shortly will need to make another round of rescissions, we should not be contemplating increasing these grants. How could we possibly explain such an action to our taxpayers?

I also urge you to resist the temptation to make changes to other parts of the CEP which are not affected by the court's decision. As I stated above, I am committed to preserving and, in fact, strengthening the CEP and I do not support making unnecessary changes which may invite additional litigation. Attempts to tinker with the program beyond the changes required by the decisions court would almost certainly run the risk of additional court challenges -- thereby threatening the very viability of the program we are endeavoring to preserve.

I look forward to continuing our conversation on these important issues and ultimately to reaching a consensus on what we must do to preserve the integrity of the Citizens' Election Program.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

M. Jodi Rell
Governor