September 25, 2019

Senator Len Fasano
Legislative Office Building, Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Fasano,

In the long history of the Connecticut State Senate the members and leaders of this body have disagreed on countless issues. However vehemently we have disagreed, we have always sought to maintain decorum in policy debate. Policy discussions should never devolve into personal attacks against one another or cross the professional line of questioning motives.

I would expect that as the leader of the Senate Republican caucus and as a member of the Senate for over 16 years you would not only maintain decorum but serve as a role model to your fellow Senators. Unfortunately, in your letter to Governor Lamont dated September 23, 2019, you have changed the rules of engagement, crossed the line, and questioned the motives of the Senate Democratic caucus.

However, if you insist on discussing motives, I understand why you and other Republican Senators would be so eager to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of restaurant owners. Financial motives sometimes trump the needs of a deliberative consensus-building process.

Apart from the unprovoked departure from our traditions, your letter is also factually incorrect. I understand that blaming unions for all of the woes of our world is a longstanding knee-jerk reaction by your political party, but the restaurant workers in question are in fact not represented by any union. If you and your caucus were equally concerned about fairness to workers as well as to management, I believe that you would acknowledge this fact.

I hope we can stop this unproductive exchange of letters and schedule the informational hearing that Senate Democrats first proposed in July.

Sincerely,

Martin M. Looney
Senate President Pro Tempore

cc: Governor Ned Lamont
    Ryan Drajewicz, Chief of Staff
    Representative Joe Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House of Representatives
    Representative Themis Klarides, House Republican Leader