



Connecticut General Assembly  
SENATE DEMOCRATS

March 28, 2018

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Secretary Ben Barnes  
Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capitol Ave  
Hartford, CT 06106

State Treasurer Denise Nappier  
Office of the State Treasurer  
55 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Secretary Barnes and Treasurer Nappier,

We are writing to you to request a meeting with you and the legislative leaders prior to the execution of any financial assistance agreement between the State of Connecticut and the City of Hartford. We believe that recent press accounts and a draft version of the agreement provided by the Office of Policy and Management do not accurately reflect the legislative intent of the bipartisan budget.

The financial health of our municipalities is critically important to the economic health of our state. The bipartisan budget provides a mechanism in order to stabilize the finances of distressed municipalities.

As you know, the bipartisan budget contained an authorization for \$20 million per year in debt service over the current biennium as well as up to \$28 million per year in the biennium through the Municipal Accountability Review Board for financial assistance and aid in restructuring Hartford's outstanding debt.

It was not the explicit understanding in our budget negotiations that Connecticut would assume the long term payment of Hartford's debt. Let us be clear: any future debt service payments agreed to by the State of Connecticut for the City of Hartford will be taken into consideration when deciding total municipal aid for the City of Hartford.

We are available to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Martin Looney  
Senate President Pro Tempore

Bob Duff  
Senate Majority Leader