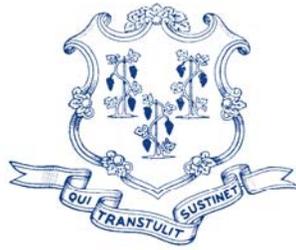


SENATOR GAYLE SLOSSBERG

Fourteenth District

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State of Connecticut

SENATE

Chair
Government Administration
& Elections
Vice-Chair
Public Health; Veterans' Affairs
Member
Appropriations

February 19, 2010

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
State Capitol Building
Executive Chambers
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

In 2007, I partnered with your office and other invested parties to craft legislation reforming our state's contracting standards and procedures. We worked in cooperation to create a bill that would break the logjam surrounding this issue and finally enact a system that would help to restore the public's trust in the state.

In this effort, we were ultimately successful, and the legislation was both passed by the General Assembly and signed by you into law. However, I write to you now with concerns over the lack of implementation of this legislation and the impact that this will have on our state.

Under state statute, the Contracting Standards Board was formed as of January 1, 2009. This board is directly responsible for developing and carrying out policies on multiple aspects of contract procurement, yet you have not completed your statutory appointments to this board and an executive director has not been appointed to lead the panel.

This board is directly responsible for developing and carrying out policies on multiple aspects of contract procurement. Without this panel, the work we did to enact this legislation—which you lauded as “a capstone” to your ethics reform—is essentially meaningless.

In media accounts your spokespeople indicated that the current fiscal troubles facing the state have inhibited your ability to appoint an executive director for this important panel. Additionally, they stated that the state has no funds for “new programs, new services or new hires” and that “the governor's deficit-mitigation plan assumes no hires for this fiscal year.”

With all due respect, it is my belief that this hire should be incorporated in any fiscal plan; the potential for extremely costly contracting errors outweighs the cost of filling this very important position. Additionally, while your office claims to be operating under a hiring freeze, state agencies—notably, the Department of Transportation, as the commissioner has testified before legislative committee—have completed hires in the past year.

With resources so short, we need to make sure that we are spending the state's money in a responsible, ethical and cost-effective manner. This is the only body in our state with the authority to review contracts for cost-effectiveness. I would ask that you make the necessary appointments to the Contracting Standards Board.

As designed, this board will only improve efficiency in state operations and help to save the state during these difficult financial times. I stand ready to work in cooperation with you again to bring this board into full operation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gayle Slossberg
State Senator—14th District
Co-chair—Government Administration & Elections Committee
Co-chair—Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes