



M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

July 10, 2008

Robert D. Rinker  
Executive Director  
Connecticut State Employees Association  
760 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Rinker:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 16, 2008 regarding telecommuting programs for state employees. As you may know, I supported the goals of Senate Bill 673, An Act Concerning Improved Telecommuting Programs for the State's Workforce, including increasing worker efficiency and productivity, benefiting the environment, and reducing traffic congestion. Like you, I believe that these goals can be achieved without legislation. Specifically, I believe that telecommuting arrangements can be implemented under the existing telecommuting guidelines adopted by the Department of Administrative Services.

Under the existing guidelines, an employee interested in telecommuting works with his or her agency to craft individualized telecommuting arrangements that are beneficial to both the agency and the individual. The Department of Administrative Services reviews all proposed arrangements to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

Under many of the current telecommuting arrangements, the employee works from home on one or two days per week and reports to the office for the remainder. The arrangements vary according to the needs and interests of the agencies and employees, with one constant factor: a set schedule must be determined in advance and followed by the employee.

The existing program works well because it allows each agency to determine how telecommuting can best fit its operational requirements and mission and to identify jobs and individuals that are most likely to be successful in this arrangement. It allows individual employees to propose a telecommuting schedule that meets the employee's needs as well as the department's requirements.

Given the comprehensive and flexible nature of the existing program, I believe that it can be successfully used by many more state employees. Since increased use of this program will not only benefit state employees, but will reduce air pollution, gas consumption and traffic congestion, I will encourage agency heads to seriously consider increasing telecommuting options within their agencies and to make information about this program available to their employees.

Thank you once again for your interest in this important matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

cc: Brenda Sisco, Commissioner, DAS