



June 16, 2008

Honorable James A. Amann
Speaker of the House
Majority Leader Christopher Donovan
STATE OF CONNECTICUT, STATE CAPITOL
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Donald Williams
President Pro Tempore
Majority Leader Martin Looney
STATE OF CONNECTICUT, STATE CAPITOL
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Speaker Amann, President Pro Temp Williams, Majority Leaders
Looney and Donovan:

I am writing to request that you call yourself into special session following the veto session to act upon a historic supplemental collective bargaining agreement between CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 and the Rell Administration. This agreement will improve the quality of services at the Connecticut Department of Transportation by upgrading the qualifications and compensation of the professional employees in the Engineering, Scientific and Technical bargaining unit.

The highlights of the agreement include:

- Requiring new engineers to have a Bachelor's degree in engineering;
- Requiring supervisors to have a Professional Engineering License or Land Surveyor License;
- Allow employees to voluntarily increase their workweek to forty hours over a two year period. This will help the Department to attract and to retain existing engineers;
- Allows employees to voluntarily decrease their workweek from thirty-five hours. This will allow the Department to retain employees who are trying to balance family and career;
- Creates career ladders for Transportation engineers in Construction inspection;
- Increase compensation to compete with the private sector for qualified engineers; and
- Decrease the State's reliance on outside consultants.

This agreement was the result of four months of bargaining between the Union and the Rell Administration. The agreement came after the calls for real reform in DOT following the I-84 debacle. The agreement was ratified overwhelmingly by our membership and is supported by the Rell administration.

Michael J. O'Brien
President

Patrice Peterson
Secretary/Treasurer

Robert D. Rinker
Executive Director

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Unfortunately, the agreement was submitted on the Monday before your adjournment on May 7, 2008. The agreement has very specific dates for implementation that will make a retroactive implementation problematic and may result in the loss of very qualified current and future employees in the DOT.

It is not very often that state employee unions and the Rell administration have entered into a win-win agreement for the affected employees and DOT, but this agreement is also a win-win for the commuters in Connecticut as well as taxpayers.

Again, I respectfully request that a Special Session be called to act favorably on this supplemental agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Rinker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Robert D. Rinker

Executive Director, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001

cc: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Executive Council Members