



State of Connecticut

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SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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October 17, 2019

The Honorable Henri Martin
Ranking Member Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3701
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

The Honorable Laura Devlin
Ranking Member Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Martin and Representative Devlin:

I write regarding the Connecticut Port Authority and the immediate need for further hearings to continue the legislature's investigation of the public allegations of untoward behavior at the Authority including statements made by a "whistleblower" to the CT Examiner and The Day.

The initial public hearing on the Port Authority that took place on August 20, 2019 was a first step but was really only a preliminary discussion. We need to continue our efforts to investigate this issue and a second public hearing is much needed. The Democrat co-chairs of the Transportation Committee have yet to indicate a willingness to hold a second public hearing on the Port Authority to hear from employees and board members, including a "whistleblower" who was not present during an initial hearing that took place in August. Therefore, I am writing to request that our Republican ranking members hold an informational hearing to allow these individuals to share information with the legislature that is key to enabling us to identify the issues and earn back the public's trust.

I have requested that the co-chairs of the Transportation Committee hold a public hearing on this issue and asked that they let me know by October 16, 2019 if they were planning to hold a hearing or if they were not inclined to do so. That date has come and gone and I have received no response. It has also been over a month since two Democrat lawmakers reached out to the co-chairs to also request a public hearing.

I am disappointed that the co-chairs of the Transportation Committee have refused to respond to the requests made by myself and rank-and-file lawmakers of their own party, but that does not mean we have to halt our efforts to obtain more information.

Senator Martin and Representative Devlin
October 17, 2019
Page 2

While Republican ranking members do not have the authority to convene a public hearing, you do have the authority to call a public informational hearing which will allow us to invite and discuss these serious issues and allegations with staff and board members.

I believe it is important that we hear from these voices, including an employee who has shared a public letter detailing alleged office conflicts. Lawmakers need to fully understand what has happened at the Port Authority and ensure we have all the information needed to identify next steps to restore public trust and move forward with important projects. Any whistleblower should be heard and given the opportunity to share what they know and allegedly witnessed. And any past leader of the Port Authority needs to be held accountable and answer questions as well as be given the opportunity to explain the full situation from their perspective.

I look forward to working with you both to address this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Len Fasano', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Len Fasano,
Senate Republican Leader