

June 16, 2008



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

Senator Andrea Stillman, Co-Chair  
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair  
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Stillman & Representative Dargan,

Enclosed is a recent *Hartford Courant* article outlining the continuing efforts of Governor Rell's Office of Policy and Management to avoid complying with Connecticut labor law. As is noted, State Police lieutenants and captains in the Connecticut Department of Public Safety have been trying to exercise their right to collectively bargain for over a year. OPM has tried on numerous occasions, both administratively with the State's Board of Labor Relations, and in the courts, to avoid the simple fact that these men and women have a right to elect a union to represent them.

In fact, State Police lieutenants and captains voted unanimously to be represented by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001. OPM has refused to recognize their decision and their right to bargain collectively with the Rell Administration. Instead, their plan is to litigate this decision to the State's highest court.

It is troubling enough that the Administration is unable or unwilling to follow the laws of the State. But we write to you today to ask why, in a time of economic uncertainty, it is planning to waste still more money (after already spending \$225,000.00 on a private law firm) on an ill-advised and futile appeal to evade their legal responsibility. In times of scarce resources, we believe contracting with high-priced outside legal counsel is not the best use of a quarter-million dollars in taxpayer money.

We urge you to contact the Governor and OPM Secretary Robert Genuario, and ask them to stop wasting money on attorneys and obey the law by bargaining with these public servants.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**Michael O'Brien**  
Executive Council President,  
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001

**Edward A. Gould**  
Vice President, Connecticut State Police  
Commissioned Officer Association,  
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001

CC: Senator Anthony Guglielmo, Ranking Member, Public Safety Committee  
Representative Raymond Kalinowski, Ranking Member, Public Safety Committee  
Commissioner John Danaher III, CT Department of Public Safety  
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Executive Council Members  
Connecticut State Police Commissioned Officer Association Members

MJO/EAG:dmo  
Enclosure

Michael J. O'Brien  
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