



Stronger Together

Catherine A. Oster
President

Patrice Peterson
Secretary/Treasurer

Robert D. Rinker
Executive Director

May 7, 2010

The Honorable John B. Larson
United States House of Representatives
106 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representative Larson:

As you may know, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 represents 25,000 active and retired public service employees in Connecticut and is affiliated with SEIU, the largest and fastest growing union in Connecticut and in the country. Our members include the State of Connecticut's Department of Transportation engineers and other professional staff. Our local and SEIU belong to the National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions (NASHTU). NASHTU is a national organization of 31 unions representing state highway and transportation employees. As part of our annual meeting in Washington, D.C., each of the participating unions visits its state delegation. We are extremely disappointed in not being able to meet with you or any of your key staff. The failure to schedule a meeting with your office was not due to a lack of effort on our part.

We called your Washington DC office during April of 2010. We were in Washington DC (April 26-29, 2010) attending the 11th Annual Conference of The National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions (NASHTU). As our NASHTU delegation has done every year for the past 10 years, we requested a congressional meeting with you (or your transportation staffer) in your Capitol Office. This year, we requested this meeting for Wednesday April 28, 2010.

As registered and voting Democrats from your District, we have to take this time to inform you of the lack of satisfaction we were left with after departing DC. According to your web page "*Congressman Larson in Your Corner – my staff and I are here to provide you with help*"; we have no choice but to disagree with that statement. A request to have the April 28th meeting was emailed into your office, followed up by a faxed copy of the request, followed up by a personal phone call from us to your staff – all on the subject of the April 28th meeting request. On Tuesday April 27th at approximately 1:00 PM, we were informed by one of the members of your staff that you would not be available to meet, but that we would be contacted by a member of your staff (Lee Slater) no later than 4:00 PM that day with a time for the Wednesday appointment which would take place with either Lee or one of your other staff members. Needless to say that phone call was never made and as a result, we have no other information that would indicate anything else other than that our request to meet was deemed to be unimportant by your office.

Congressman Larson, with all due respect to you and your position you hold as my elected Representative in Congress, if one of our members contacted us in our capacity as a union official and requested a meeting with our superior and we failed to set up that meeting – or at a minimum take all the necessary steps to meet with the person making the request ourselves to address their needs, we would find ourselves in a very precarious position in serving our membership. We believe it is our duty here to remind you and your staff that as the elected Representative for Connecticut's First District, that you and your staff members are in the business of customer service and that in this instance you and your staff failed to provide us with even poor customer service – it was non-existent.

This situation was exacerbated by the fact that the other members of Connecticut's elected Washington Delegation did make time for members of our Union. Representatives Courtney, Himes, Murphy and DeLauro all ensured that their staff took time to meet with us, listened to the issues we brought to discuss and promised follow up in the near future. These members of Congress do not represent us as we do not live in their Districts but yet these other members of the Connecticut Delegation made sure that their staff members took time to meet with us. And yet after traveling to DC and making three requests to meet, our own Representative's office can not even give me a few moments of time or even the courtesy of a phone call to send regrets or to inform us of their unavailability? Frankly Congressman Larson, it is just our opinion, but we find that scenario can only be described as inexcusable. In fact this is not the first time our union and its members have had this experience with your office.

We have no doubt that you and your staff members are extremely busy every day. Yet, it seems to me that when voting constituents takes the time to travel to your DC office and requests a meeting by using multiple means of contact, to discuss issues important to them and to the other residents of the District you represent and the entire State of Connecticut, that the very least you can do is insure that if you can not meet with your constituents that someone from your staff does.

We, like you, have been disappointed with the lack of Federal Stimulus money that is coming to Connecticut for transportation projects. A dialogue between the frontline employees of Connecticut Department of Transportation and your office would be beneficial to the citizens of Connecticut concerning our transportation needs. We still hope to have that discussion with you in the future.

As we reiterated earlier, we recognize your schedule is very busy, however if you wish to discuss our experience relating to our venture to your DC office we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience or discuss it with you by phone. If you have any questions for us, or if you would like to schedule a meeting, or call us, you may contact Stephen Livingston at his home after 4:30 PM Monday through Friday at (860) 528-0018 or at his cell phone after 4:30 PM (860) 841-1550 or you can contact Bob Rinker at 860-951-6614 at CSEA SEIU Local 2001 offices in Hartford.

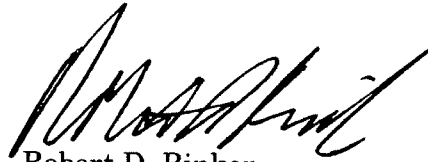
We do want to take this opportunity to thank you for your public service. For the most part, you and your staff should be very proud of the work that you do for the voters of Connecticut's First District.

We look forward to hearing from you and the possibility of arranging an in-district meeting with you.

Sincerely,



Stephen P. Livingston
NASHTU Delegate/Member
CSEA SEIU Local 2001



Robert D. Rinker
Executive Director

cc: John B Larson Hartford, Connecticut Office
Amy O'Donnell – Chief of Staff
Lee Slater – Senior Legislative Assistant
Ted Toppin – PECG/NASHTU
Kevin Ng – CSEA, SEIU Local 2001

File: SPL

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United States House of Representatives
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Washington DC, 20515

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106 Cannon HOB
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SENDER: Stephen Livingston

REFERENCE: NASHTU

PS Form 3800, January 2005

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