



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

November 3, 2017

The Honorable Martin M. Looney
President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300

The Honorable Joe Aresimowicz
Speaker of the House
Legislative Office Building, Room 4105

The Honorable Bob Duff
Senate Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300

The Honorable Matt Ritter
House Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 4106

The Honorable Len Fasano
Senate Republican President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3400

The Honorable Themis Klarides
House Minority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 4200

The Honorable Kevin Witkos
Deputy Senate Republican President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3403

The Honorable Chase Rogers
Chief Justice, Connecticut Supreme Court
231 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Members of the Committee on Legislative Management and Chief Justice Rogers:

We have read with considerable and growing alarm about the end of coverage of state government by CT-N.

Of course, we know well that the state's fiscal position means that everything we do must be scrutinized and curtailed in order to live within our means. That is happening in every state agency. But just as we have worked together in recent years to accomplish budget reductions without altogether eliminating important services, so should we collectively find a way to balance the budget without eliminating video coverage and archiving of important state civic events, including legislative sessions, committee meetings, public hearings, board and commission meetings, announcements from the executive branch, arguments before the State Supreme Court, and the like. If in fact the limited resources that are available under the budget -- \$1.2 million per year -- are not enough to operate CT-N on some reasonable basis, we should reconsider how much we will make available.

We are also troubled that matters of editorial liberty and coverage of events other than the legislature may have played some role in the failure to come to a new agreement. The operator of CT-N should cover whatever is of interest to the public, and that should clearly include executive or judicial branch activities where they deem appropriate.

To that end, our administration is prepared to find resources up to \$400,000 within existing executive branch budgets to supplement the existing revenue diversion. This will require the branch to curtail other activities, hold positions vacant, or otherwise sacrifice services beyond the challenges we already face based on the adopted budget and lapse requirements.

We also believe that the Legislative and Judicial branch budgets, tight as they are, can accommodate some matching funds to complement this offer based on recent spending patterns. We ask you, our colleagues in the Judicial Department and in the Office of Legislative Management, to make a similar commitment. If you are prepared to do so, we can enter into an agreement to manage an appropriate arrangement with a vendor in a non-partisan, transparent manner.

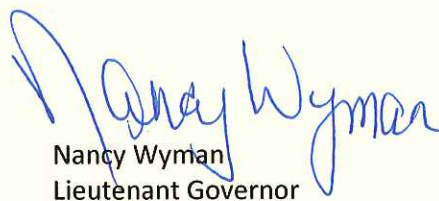
Finally, as part of such a joint effort, we would commit to placing a bond allocation on an upcoming bond commission agenda to fund installation on new equipment, against the \$1 million in authorization for CT-N that was not de-authorized as part of the budget.

We are asking you to join us in this commitment as soon as possible in order to ensure that CT-N is a part of Connecticut's civic life for years to come.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor



Nancy Wyman
Lieutenant Governor