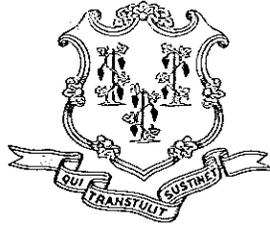


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March 1, 2010

Good morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and members of The Government Administration and Elections Committee. I would like to express my support for SB 291, AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS.

Thank you for raising this bill which would amend CGS section 4-6 to require executive nominations of "Department heads" as defined in CGS section 4-5 be joint nominations. This provision would empower both houses of the General Assembly to consider the quality of executive nominations and hold department heads accountable for the progress of the agencies they lead. These critical policy making positions should be subject to evaluation and scrutiny by both the House and Senate as is required in the case of judicial appointments. I would encourage you to expand the language in this bill to capture others who are appointed to full time positions but are not defined as "department heads" by CGS 4-5 such as the commissioners of DPUC.

I believe that this legislation would assist in protecting the co-equal status of the legislative branch of government. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.