State of Connecticut

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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

March 7, 2011

Good morning Chairs Slossberg and Morin, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hwang, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

I'm here to testify on Legislative Republicans' proposal, House Bill 5987: *An Act Requiring A More Efficient Use of Office Space Leased By The State* and also on the Committee's Raised Bill 6495 *An Act Concerning The Disposition Of Surplus State Property.*

Although I don't think HB 6495 is intended to slow down the process of selling state assets, I am concerned that it will have that affect. The bill adds notification requirements as well as new analysis. I believe this is taking us in the wrong direction.

Last year, the Office of Policy and Management, in conjunction with the State Treasurer, put forth a plan as mandated under PA 09-3, regarding the sale of assets and produced a list of recommended changes to our statutes by which to speed up the process in which the state could divest itself of identified surplus property. Our caucus took those recommendations and offered them as an amendment to bills in this committee and also on the floor. Unfortunately, there was no action taken and now we find ourselves in an even worse economic condition than last year so I would hope the committee would take a look at our caucus proposal while considering HB 6495. If the Committee is interested, I would be happy to provide a copy the language we drafted last session, as well as a copy of the plan submitted by OPM and the Treasurer.

I also think the issue of selling surplus property goes hand in hand with reviewing our current lease contracts. We need to develop and implement a plan to reduce the State's footprint. The first step should be to determine how we can consolidate our workforce into fewer buildings. This would give the state some leverage in negotiating or renegotiating leases. It would also allow us to terminate costly leases.

These proposals go towards making government more efficient, providing better services to our citizens and hopefully saving taxpayer dollars.