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Written Testimony of
Deputy Comptroller Martha Carlson
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State Comptroller and Miscellaneous Accounts Budget Presentation for Appropriations Committee

Good Morning Senator Harp, Senator Kane, Representative Walker, Representative Miner, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

For the record, I am Deputy State Comptroller Martha Carlson, and I am here this morning to testify on the Governor's Recommended Biennial Budget for the Office of the State Comptroller, and Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller's Office.

With regard to our agency budget, while the level of funding recommended by the Governor for Personal Services and Other Expenses is less than what we had originally requested, we are confident we can operate within the confines of these recommended amounts.

As you are aware, over the last two years, the Comptroller's Office has been dedicated to finding ways to more efficiently operate the agency, create savings and provide greater transparency in government. Some of our successes include converting over 2000 state vendors and municipalities to electronic payment; transferring retirees health care to an Employer Group Waiver Program (EGWP), saving the state over $20 million annually while maintaining the same high level of coverage and care; and launching –at no cost to taxpayers-- Open CT, a new, user-friendly website that provides greater transparency on government spending.

We continue to work hard to deliver the best quality service to state employees, retirees, vendors, municipalities, state agencies and the public-- given the limited resources we have in these challenging fiscal times. We have an extraordinary staff with a track record of finding ways to successfully accomplish our base business, while at the same time implementing large projects-- all with the understanding of "doing more with less." It is largely due to their efforts that we will be able to operate within the recommended budget levels and are not seeking additional funding.

We are also not seeking any additional funding for the statewide Miscellaneous Accounts administered by our office beyond what was included in the Governor's Biennial Budget.

Thank you very much for your time. I am pleased to answer any questions that you may have.