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HARTFORD DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

March 18, 2013

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, members of the Government, Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Marc DiBella and I am the Democratic Town Chairman in the City of Hartford. I come before you today in support of SB 1127, AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE CONTRACTORS and HB 6632, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY CONTRIBUTE TO A TOWN COMMITTEE.

Senate Bill 1127, if passed would allow a State contractor, prospective State contractor, principle of a State contractor or principle of a prospective State contractor to donate to a Town Committee in the Town/City in which they reside. This change would allow us to pursue donors who presently are precluded by law from donating. Many have been active in the Party for years, and having the ability to accept their donations would have a positive impact on our finances.

House Bill 6632 would not assist us in broadening our donor base, but it would be helpful with high net worth donors who would like to donate more to our Town Committee but presently can only donate \$1000 per calendar year. Raising the maximum amount an individual may contribute to \$2000 would enhance the Town Committee's effectiveness and strengthen our ability to carry out our mission.

In closing, fundraising for local Town Committees, regardless of party affiliation has become extremely challenging since campaign finance reform. I see these two bills as small, but positive steps in the right direction to assisting local parties regain some of their footing while keeping the integrity of campaign finance reform intact. I urge your support.

Marc A. DiBella
Chairman
Hartford Democratic Town Committee