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**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**  
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**BILL FINCH**  
Mayor

February 10, 2015

**The Honorable Eric Coleman**  
Co-Chairman  
Joint Committee on Judiciary

**The Honorable William Tong**  
Co-Chairman  
Joint Committee on Judiciary

Dear Co-Chairmen Coleman and Tong,

I want to express my support and appreciation for your committee in considering legislation – and moving a bill forward – that would strengthen laws aimed at cracking down on public corruption.

Public corruption isn't a victimless crime. It hurts everyone in our community. It's bad for the image of our cities and our state because it keeps investors from creating jobs and growing their businesses here.

That's why for your consideration, I recommend a three-pronged approach to taking further action against public corruption, which includes: kicking all corrupt politicians off pension rolls; stronger state laws against public corruption; and a lifetime disqualification for corrupt politicians to run for office.

Connecticut has made progress over the past several years on giving state prosecutors the tools necessary to fight public corruption, but clearly it has not been enough.

I believe passing – and signing into law – legislation that includes these measures is critical to our state and its future. It will make our cities and towns a place where more companies want to invest and hire people, where more people want to live and work, and where our strong communities make for an even stronger economy.

But, I also believe that tackling public corruption is about more than one person or one election. And, I want to ensure that there isn't a perception that this bill is aimed at driving any one corrupt politician in particular off of the ballot.

That said, I recommend the committee move forward with this legislation, and with the caveat that the disqualification measure applies after the 2015 election cycle. However, the committee should not dismiss this measure altogether. Because what it's really about is a better future for our kids and grandkids. And, it's about restoring trust in government.

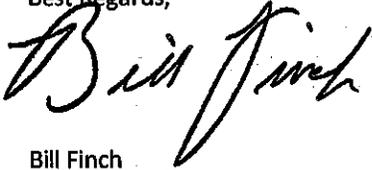
To be clear, I agree with U.S. Attorney Deirdre Daly in stating, "we want people in prison to come back into society and have some chance of success." I also concur with her assertion that "public officials who breach the public trust might be in a somewhat different category."

*"Together we are making Bridgeport the cleanest, greenest, safest, most affordable city, with schools and neighborhoods that improve each year"*

That's why sex offenders shouldn't work in a day care, and corrupt politicians shouldn't work in government. It's common-sense, and it will help protect taxpayers from future harm.

Now more than ever, we need to take action against public corruption at the state level. I do not want to see it derailed because of misconceptions. Thank you again for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Finch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "B" and "F".

Bill Finch  
Mayor