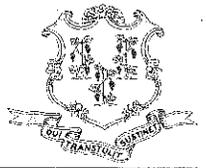


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March 29, 2016

Senator John W. Fonfara, Co-Chair
Representative Jeffrey J. Berger, Co-Chair
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: **Senate Bill 464, An Act Establishing the Hartford Financial Sustainability Commission**

Dear Senator Fonfara and Representative Berger:

We understand that the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee held a public hearing yesterday on the above-referenced bill, which proposes to establish a new commission to review the financial affairs of the City of Hartford and to take all necessary actions in order to address the city's projected deficits and to restore financial stability.

Although the Freedom of Information Commission does not take a position as to the merits of Senate Bill 464, we are concerned that the proposal remains silent as to whether the Hartford Financial Sustainability Commission, if created, will be subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. Section 1 of the proposal specifically provides that "the resolution of the projected deficits is a matter of *paramount public interest*; and that to achieve this resolution it is necessary, appropriate and an *essential public purpose* to establish the Hartford Financial Sustainability Commission..." [Emphasis added]. We believe that in order to ensure that there is transparency and accountability in the operations of the Financial Sustainability Commission, the proposal should be amended to clarify that such commission is subject to the open meetings and public records provisions set forth in the FOI Act.

Thank you for consideration of this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Murphy
Executive Director and General Counsel