



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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November 29, 2010

The Honorable Joseph Crisco
State Senator
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sen. Crisco,

Thank you so much for responding to my November 17 letter regarding the reduction of paper waste in the Connecticut General Assembly.

Through the efforts of the Green Team in 2008, we identified additional ways to capitalize on our online capabilities and ensure that printed materials are being used as intended.

In FY 2009, our state spent over \$4.5 million on contracted printing and binding costs, not including all of the printing and copying by individual staff members which occurs day-to-day. Much of the printing that is intended for legislators is never used, as it is easily accessed online or not within a legislator's area of personal focus.

I believe there are savings we can achieve in several areas:

- The Printing of Statutes, Supplements, Public Acts, and Public Act Summaries:
While I appreciate that a number of these documents will still be required outside of the Legislative Office Building, the utilization of these documents in-house is poor. I suggest that a minimal number be made available for storage in each caucus office for use as needed. Caucus staff frequently annotates these

documents and should continue to receive them, however, legislators and general staff, on a whole, search statutes online.

- Printing for Legislative Chambers: The CGALites home page accessible to legislators and staff contains a feature that displays the bill under discussion in a given chamber. All documents related to the bill in question are available on this page (amendments, fiscal notes, summaries, etc.), and it is automatically updated in frequent intervals. It is because of this capability that the printing of amendments for individual legislators is unnecessary. Legislators could be required to opt-in to receiving these materials at the beginning of a new Assembly term.
- Bill Binders in Committee and in Chamber: The lace bound bill books distributed in many committees and in the Senate are an extension of the type of waste I spelled out in my prior point. The House eliminated the distribution of bills two years ago due to the availability of bills online. I feel that this practice can be extended to the Senate and committees as well.
- Mandated Reports: The Legislative Library, state statutes and special acts mandate that 419 reports are required to be produced for the General Assembly annually. Dozens more non-recurring reports are legislated each year. Standard practice, perhaps incorporated into each authorizing statute, could be that these documents are distributed electronically or that notification is sent through cover letter. Legislators and legislative institutions will then have the option of requesting full reports if needed.

Each of these four suggestions will create small but measurable savings for the Office of Legislative Management and other state agencies which interact with the General Assembly. They will also drastically reduce the amount of paper waste generated in our building. I appreciate your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Bye". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" and last name "Bye" clearly distinguishable.

Beth Bye
State Representative, 19th District

cc: Beverly Henry, Co-Chair