STATE OF CONNECTICUT EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS



July 2, 2009

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz Secretary of the State 20 Trinity Street Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Secretary Bysiewicz:

I am returning to you without my signature Senate Bill 1068, An Act Concerning Green Jobs.

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to apply for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) stimulus funds and to use such funds to establish a program to create green jobs and promote green energy and conservation by targeting investments in renewable energy research, development and deployment and promoting the use of renewable energy in state buildings, nonprofits and educational institutions.

This legislation is both unnecessary and inconsistent with the current state plan for applying for green jobs and green energy stimulus funds. Since the passage of the ARRA in February of this year, the State has made extensive preparations to maximize the amount of funds flowing into Connecticut. Each funding opportunity has been identified and a comprehensive plan has been developed for both communicating such opportunities to potential applicants and ensuring that Connecticut receives the greatest amount of dollars possible.

The Green Collar Jobs Council created by Executive Order No. 23 has already reviewed available ARRA green job grant opportunities and has recommended which entities should apply for such grants. With diverse representation from all relevant entities, including the Departments of Education, Higher Education, Environmental Protection, Labor and Economic and Community Development, this Council's recommendations should be heeded.

In particular, the Green Jobs Council reviewed the Green Capacity Building Grants, State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants, Energy Training Partnership Grants, Pathways out of Poverty Grants and State Energy Section Partnership and Training Grants and identified a list of lead applicants for each grant, including the Department of Labor, Connecticut Business and Industry Association, Energy Workforce Development Consortium and Community Colleges. With respect to energy-related stimulus funds, the Office of Policy and Management has taken the lead. These entities, as opposed to the Department of Economic and Community Development, are the most well-suited to both apply for and receive federal stimulus monies related to green initiatives.

For these aforementioned reasons and pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut and Article III of the Amendments to the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning House Bill 1068 without my signature.

Very truly yours,

M. Jódi Rell