September 16, 2019

Commissioner Scott Jackson  
Department of Revenue Services  
450 Columbus Blvd  
Hartford, CT 06103

Commissioner Jackson,

We write to urge you to do an immediate review of the policy guidance that the Department of Revenue recently released concerning the new 1% meals tax.

The unilateral decision by the agency to expand the sales tax to additional food items is not consistent with the intent of the budget.

We do not need the revenue that is expected to be generated by this proposal in this biennium. Our budget, as you know, assumed the definition of “meals” as enforced at the time by your agency. That proposal had a public hearing and had been publicly debated for several years. It was not something we chose to do lightly – it enabled us to avoid other less desirable options. According to a preliminary analysis by the non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis, the agency’s new policy will generate significant revenue beyond what was projected to be collected as part of the budget.

We appreciate that this new guidance is an attempt to resolve some of the inequities in the current definition of “meals.” However, we believe public involvement and a complete understanding of the real-world impact of the new policy is necessary.

Our Chair of the Finance Committee is available to assist you in better understanding the legislative intent of these provisions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Aresimowicz  
Speaker of the House

Matthew Ritter  
House Majority Leader
Kerry Szeps Wood
Representative 29th District

Jill Barry
Representative 31st District

Joseph C. Serra
Representative 33rd District

Christine Palm
Representative 36th District

Anthony L. Nolan
Representative 39th District

Christine Conley
Representative 40th District

Joe de la Cruz
Representative 41st District

Kate Rotella
Representative 43rd District

Emmit D. Riley
Representative 46th District

Linda A. Orange
Representative 48th District

Susan M. Johnson
Representative 49th District

Patrick S. Boyd
Representative 50th District

Pat Wilson Pheanious
Representative 53rd District

Gregory Haddad
Representative 54th District

Michael A. Winkler
Representative 56th District

Tom Arnone
Representative 58th District

Jane M. Garibay
Representative 60th District

Maria P. Horn
Representative 64th District

Michelle L. Cook
Representative 65th District

Larry B. Butler
Representative 72nd District

Ronald A. Napoli
Representative 73rd District
Michael A. DiMossa  
Representative 116th District

Kim Rose  
Representative 118th District

Philip L. Young  
Representative 120th District

Joseph P. Gresko  
Representative 121st District

Andre F. Baker  
Representative 124th District

Charlie L. Stallworth  
Representative 126th District

John F. Hennessy  
Representative 127th District

Christopher Rosario  
Representative 128th District

Steven J. Stafstrom  
Representative 129th District

Antonio Felipe  
Representative 130th District

Cristin McCarthy Vahey  
Representative 133rd District

Anne Meiman Hughes  
Representative 135th District

Jonathan Steinberg  
Representative 136th District

Chris Perone  
Representative 137th District

Kenneth M. Gucker  
Representative 138th District

Kevin Ryan  
Representative 139th District

Travis Simms  
Representative 140th District

Lucy Dathan  
Representative 142nd District

Caroline Simmons  
Representative 144th District

Patricia Billie Miller  
Representative 145th District

David Michel  
Representative 146th District