



## State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Commissioner Joan McDonald  
Department of Economic & Community Development  
505 Hudson Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner McDonald,

We are writing to you, as legislators representing New Britain and Bristol, to ask you to look into what the Department of Economic and Community Development can do to keep two important local businesses from closing their doors - the New Britain Herald and the Bristol Press. Both of these newspapers are owned by the Journal Register Corporation and it has recently been made public that both might be closed down.


We are very concerned about the loss of local jobs that would occur if this happens. Our communities are struggling in these difficult times and neither New Britain nor Bristol can afford the loss of jobs that these closures would mean.


We are equally concerned about what the loss of these newspapers would mean for our communities. There are many, many important ways that a locally-based newspaper is a central point of information and record about a city. It would also be a detriment to the efforts of both New Britain and Bristol to rebuild our local economies if we were to lose the prestige that comes with being home to a local daily newspaper.

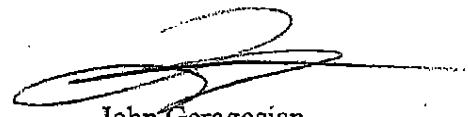
Also, for much of the same reasons that we press for campaign finance reform and other important ethics legislation, having a locally-based newspaper is important for public accountability. As elected officials, ourselves, we want to public to have access to independent news about what is going on in government and our communities. We share the sentiments of our nation's leaders who wrote the Bill of Rights that a free press is an essential part of democracy.


Please let us know what the Department of Economic & Community Development can do to help. We would like to request a meeting with you at your convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

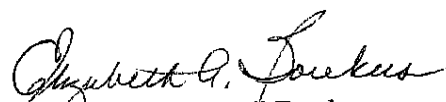
Sincerely,

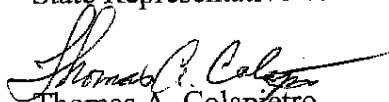
  
Timothy O'Brien  
State Representative-24<sup>th</sup>

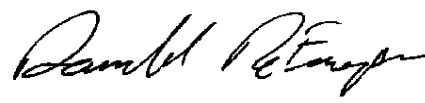
  
Peter Tercyak  
State Representative-26<sup>th</sup>

  
John Geragosian  
State Representative-25<sup>th</sup>

  
Frank N. Nicastro, Sr  
State Representative-79<sup>th</sup>

  
Elizabeth "Betty" Boukus  
State Representative-22<sup>nd</sup>

  
Thomas A. Colapietro  
State Senator-31<sup>st</sup>

  
Donald J. DeFronzo  
State Senator-6<sup>th</sup>