

## State of Connecticut

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 27, 2019

Honorable Ned Lamont  
Governor, State of Connecticut  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

We are appreciative of your administration's efforts thus far to inform and educate the public about the dangers of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and how they can best protect themselves from mosquitos. The virus itself, while normally rare, appears to be spreading at a faster and further rate than normally seen; being cautious and letting our state's residents know what practices to avoid is a key step toward preventing its further spread.

While we recognize that prevention is an important step of keeping the public safe, we are also concerned about the volatility of the virus. With two constituents on the Shoreline having already passed away after contracting EEE, we feel that it may not be enough to simply advise the public to avoid times when mosquitos are most active. Weather reports indicate that statewide low temperatures are not expected to drop below 40 degrees through at least the next two weeks; waiting for a first frost to naturally kill mosquitos is a luxury we may not be able to afford. In that time, more individuals will be at risk of contracting the virus.

We hereby would like to request that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection review the potential effectiveness of selective aerial insecticide spraying in areas of the state with high concentrations of EEE. According to the Hartford Courant, in 1996, the last time the state experienced a significant outbreak of the virus, aerial spraying was deployed in impacted regions of the state. With several weeks remaining until the outbreak will naturally end, we believe this spraying would give additional peace of mind to families across Connecticut.

In saying this, we recognize that we do not wish to cause unnecessary panic. The risk of EEE remains low and we understand that numbers are declining. At the same time, if further prevention efforts can save even one more life or prevent even one individual from becoming sick, we believe they would be valuable and worthwhile. Every one of our constituents deserves security in light of this public health risk.

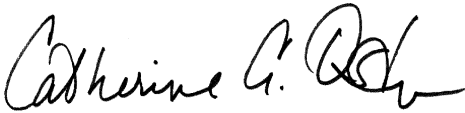
Sincerely,



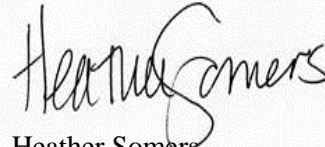
Norm Needleman  
State Senator – 33<sup>rd</sup> District



Paul Formica  
State Senator – 20<sup>th</sup> District



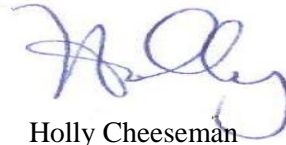
Cathy Osten  
State Senator – 19<sup>th</sup> District



Heather Somers  
State Senator – 18<sup>th</sup> District



Devin Carney  
State Representative – 23<sup>rd</sup> District



Holly Cheeseman  
State Representative – 37<sup>th</sup> District



Linda Orange  
State Representative – 48<sup>th</sup> District



Kevin Ryan  
State Representative – 139<sup>th</sup> District



Irene Haines  
State Representative – 34<sup>th</sup> District



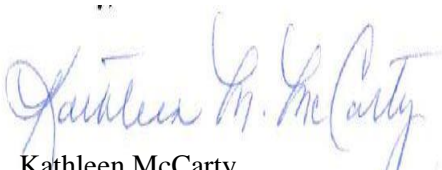
Christie Carpino  
State Representative – 32<sup>nd</sup> District



Anthony Nolan  
State Representative – 39<sup>th</sup> District



Jesse MacLachlan  
State Representative – 35<sup>th</sup> District



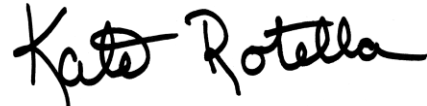
Kathleen McCarty  
State Representative – 38<sup>th</sup> District



Joe de la Cruz  
State Representative – 41<sup>th</sup> District



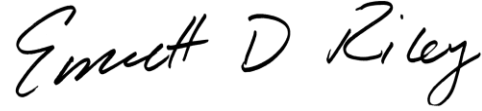
Christine Conley  
State Representative – 40<sup>th</sup> District



Kate Rotella  
State Representative – 43<sup>rd</sup> District



Mike France  
State Representative – 42<sup>nd</sup> District



Emmett Riley  
State Representative – 46<sup>th</sup> District



Robin Green  
State Representative – 55<sup>th</sup> District



Tim Ackert  
State Representative – 8<sup>th</sup> District

Cc: Senator Christine Cohen, Senate Co-Chair, Environment Committee  
Representative Mike Demicco, House Co-Chair, Environment Committee