

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

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Chairman
Committee on Finance

Senate Chamber

September 25, 2009

The Honorable Leonidas P. Raptakis
2080 Nooseneck Hill Road
Coventry, RI 02816

Dear Lou:

In response to your letter to me this date regarding your public dialogue with Senate President Paiva Weed, I am writing to you today as this seems to be your favored method of communication. That being stated, this will be my last written response to you as there are more important matters facing the state than bickering with you in the newspapers.

As to your letter, I fail to understand how you have received indications that the leadership does not consider the budget situation an urgent matter. To my knowledge, you have had no contact in person or otherwise with the Senate Finance Committee or the Senate Fiscal staff at any time in the recent past. You have not been present to witness or participate in any of the meetings or discussions which have remained ongoing during the summer and now the fall months. You instead write letters which you make public before the intended recipient has received them. As I stated in my letter yesterday, your penchant for politics over public policy is hard to miss.

Lou, I must point out to you that the fact that someone answered your letter and the assertions contained therein is hardly an attack as you refer to it. Of course, you as a sitting senator are free to call for any action you feel is appropriate to represent your constituents as you see fit. I would suggest to you that a more effective way to impart your views is by participating in the work of the senate and government instead of chasing public recognition. If you are sincere in looking forward to working with us to solve the problems that the state faces as stated in your letter, you should know that as always my door remains open to you. None of us here in the building claim to have all the answers and your insights will be appreciated and considered.

Sincerely,

Daniel Da Ponte

CC: Senators