



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

- STATEMENT -

**SECRETARY MERRILL STATEMENT
REGARDING CONNECTICUT SENATE
PRESIDENT WILLIAMS' DECISION NOT TO
SEEK RE-ELECTION**

Hartford – Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today issued the following statement regarding the decision by Connecticut Senate President Pro-tem Don Williams not to seek re-election in 2014.

“I am sorry to see Don Williams leave the Connecticut Senate. Don is a good friend and I am proud to have served with him for many years as a fellow legislator from eastern Connecticut. Don has dedicated most of his adult life to public service, including many years in local government before winning a special election to the senate. He has a remarkable legacy as a lawmaker, and it has been such a privilege to have worked closely together with Don on many issues, ranging from environmental protection and the preservation of open space to regionalism, strengthening higher education, campaign finance and criminal justice reforms, and many state budgets. Our partnership has continued during my term as Secretary of the State, and Don Williams has been a key ally in the effort to modernize our elections and increase voter participation. I have nothing but the greatest admiration for Don as a leader of our State Senate. His steady guidance has shown us all that it is possible to get significant, bipartisan reforms passed. Don Williams has proved that you can strongly represent your constituents and your convictions while building consensus with the other side of the aisle and earning the respect of opposing legislators. I know that whatever Don decides to do in the future, he will no doubt succeed. He will be truly missed at the state capitol, and of course we all wish him well.”