

State of Connecticut



Hartford

DENISE L. NAPPIER
TREASURER

September 14, 2018

To The Editor:

The Connecticut Post recently published a letter ("Bad policy on unclaimed assets," September 1, 2018) that contained inaccuracies. The most glaring example: The author of the letter accuses us of collecting unclaimed property without making a good faith effort to return it to rightful owners. He suggested that the "state knows many of the owners, yet it doesn't pay or even notify them." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Since 1999, the Treasury has aggressively worked to notify rightful owners. This office has an ongoing and comprehensive outreach effort, that includes tapping both print and electronic media to publicize that the Treasury has unclaimed property, participating in community events and fairs across the state, offering a user-friendly searchable website, www.ctbiglist.com and an 800 number (1-800-833-7318). The Treasury publishes a special electronic edition of new names of individuals that may have unclaimed property due to them, and advertises that this listing is available in all of Connecticut's major newspapers -- including this one. In the first month after the most recent publication in December 2016, there were 2.1 million hits on the Big List website. And, the office issues press releases, like the one that resulted in a news story in The Post on August 28th.

The true measure of the success of these efforts lies in the numbers. During my five terms in office, a total of \$716 million in unclaimed property has been returned to nearly 320,000 individuals, businesses, organizations and nonprofits. During just the past five fiscal years, more than \$281 million has been returned to 89,685 rightful owners – the largest amount of money returned during any five year period on record since the program started more than 80 years ago.

Publishing a letter that includes unsubstantiated claims undermines the work of the Treasury to make sure people get the money that is owed to them. The public should have confidence that their government works for them, as it does when it comes to returning unclaimed property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise L. Nappier".

Denise L Nappier
State Treasurer