



**DENISE W. MERRILL**  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

October 15, 2013

Hon. John C. Geragosian  
Hon. Robert M. Ward  
State of Connecticut  
Auditors of Public Accounts  
20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Request for Special Audit

Dear Mr. Geragosian and Mr. Ward:

I am writing today to request that your office conduct a special audit of a specific project recently undertaken by the Office of the Secretary of the State.

As you may know, recent press accounts, including the Government Watch column in the *Hartford Courant*, have described an electronic newsletter that my office has been sending to a list of individuals as well as posting on my official social networking sites. The newsletter contains information about projects and initiatives of the Office of the Secretary of the State, as well as news about my activities as Secretary. The content of the newsletter and distribution list were prepared by executive staff appointees of my office.

The press accounts to date have focused on the list of persons to whom the newsletter has been sent, including the political affiliations of the recipients and whether they have made financial contributions to my campaign for secretary of the state or to anyone else's campaign. The stories and editorials have raised serious questions about the purpose of the mailing list and newsletter. Due to the questions raised by the news accounts, I have terminated both the newsletter project and the collection of names and e-mail addresses of potential recipients effective today.

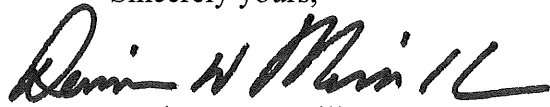
I am asking that the Auditors of Public Accounts undertake a special audit of our newsletter project, including the preparation of the newsletter, its content and the preparation of

the email distribution list. In your review, I would ask that you determine whether state resources employed in the newsletter project were properly and prudently used, and whether my office was in compliance with all legal requirements in undertaking this project.

My staff and I will be available to you and cooperate in any way necessary to complete this special audit.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise W. Merrill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Denise W. Merrill