

**State of Connecticut**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

July 22, 2014

Attn: Charles J. Filardi Jr.  
Filardi Law Offices LLC  
65 Trumbull Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Attorney Filardi,

We are concerned about Amistad America Inc.'s payments to small businesses. We want to begin by thanking you for the two \$500 "good faith" payments to Deb Bilda of BMTees of Norwich, on a total owed to her, with interest, of \$12,000. It was certainly a great feeling for her to begin to see a bit of progress after continually attempting to get paid since 2007.

As you have been designated to deal with Amistad America Inc's financial obligations, we would like to bring to your attention several other businesses that are still owed money. As they are, for the most part, small businesses it is quite a blow when they are not paid for what they have already committed resources to. A small business depends on cash flow. So, when an entity that has promised to pay does not, it can be quite devastating.

It is our understanding the following businesses are still owed money:

- BMTee's of Norwich, CT
- CGS Business Financial Services of New Haven, CT
- Tall Ship Celebration- Bay City, Michigan
- JMS Naval Architects LLC of Mystic, CT
- Coast Guard Lien- Benjamin Carlson of Old Lyme
- Custom Marine Canvas of Noank, CT
- R&W Rope of New Bedford, MA

We, as members of the state legislature, are looking forward to working with you and the small business owners to make sure that the money they are owed is paid in full. After all, the taxpayers of the state of Connecticut have duly funded the Amistad every year, including the initial construction of the boat. It is incomprehensible that small businesses, the backbone of our community economic webs, would not be the first to be paid out of the state appropriation. We certainly support the Governor's position on future funding for Amistad America Inc.

We, the undersigned legislators, would like a date certain when we can expect that there would be a viable payment plan in effect for the businesses listed above.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important small business matter.

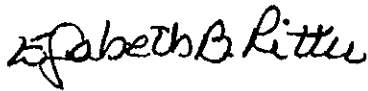
Sincerely,



Diana Urban  
State Representative, 43<sup>rd</sup> District



Ed Jutila  
State Representative, 37<sup>th</sup> District



Elizabeth 'Betsy' Ritter  
State Representative, 38<sup>th</sup> District



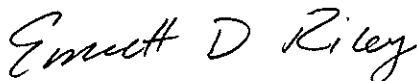
Elissa Wright  
State Representative, 41<sup>st</sup> District



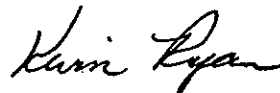
Ted Moukawsher  
State Representative, 40<sup>th</sup> District



Tim Bowles  
State Representative, 42<sup>nd</sup> District



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




Kevin Ryan  
State Representative, 139<sup>th</sup>



Andrea Stillman  
State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> District



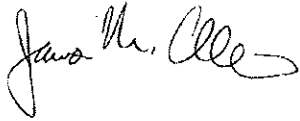
Andrew Maynard  
State Senator, 18<sup>th</sup> District



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



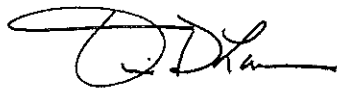
Linda Orange  
State Representative, 48<sup>th</sup> District



James Albis  
State Representative, 99<sup>th</sup> District



Pat Widlitz  
State Representative, 98<sup>th</sup> District



Tim Larson  
State Representative, 12<sup>th</sup> District



Matt Ritter  
State Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District



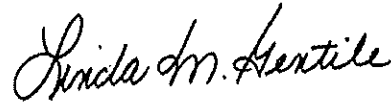
Peggy Sayers  
State Representative, 60<sup>th</sup> District



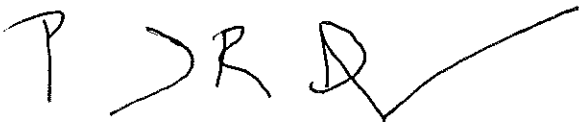
Susan Johnson  
State Representative, 49<sup>th</sup> District



Ed Vargas  
State Representative, 6<sup>th</sup> District



Linda Gentile  
State Representative, 104<sup>th</sup> District



Paul Doyle  
State Senator, 9<sup>th</sup> District



Edward Meyer  
State Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District



Jack Hennessey  
State Representative, 127<sup>th</sup> District