

RESPONSE TO GOV. MALLOY'S HARTFORD COURANT ARTICLE

The Governor Should Show Respect for Work and Workers

Re: "Malloy To Legislature: Let Me Cut Budget, Privatize
Services, Lower Tax Credit," June 30

The legislature has wisely blocked the governor's attempt to weaken oversight of contracting-out state services to private consultants. This important public policy question may be settled -- for now. But the governor's off-hand remark about the transportation professionals who keep our state's roads and highways clear and safe during winter storms is not.

In describing his motivation for suspending privatization rules, Governor Dannel P. Malloy said, "There are a whole bunch of people...who think they are the only people who know how to operate a plow...other people know how to operate a plow."

His remarks show a disappointing lack of respect for the hundreds of hardworking men and women who put their lives on hold -- and at risk -- this past winter. As we suffered a series of record storms, Department of Transportation snow plow operators were on duty 24 hours a day for multiple two to three day periods.

The reality is that the members of our Union provide a superior level of service to the traveling public than low-bid contractors whose top priority is squeezing profits.

Let's get back to the conversation about what we can do to weather this fiscal storm together, and stop demonizing hardworking state employees whose top priority is assuring safety.

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