

April 18, 2008

Bart Colli
General Counsel
ARAMARK Educational Services, LLC
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mr. Colli:

I recently learned that Aramark Educational Services, LLC (“Aramark”) has allegedly failed to forward to the Detroit Public Schools national volume discounts derived from purchases for that city’s schools. Since Aramark has been the exclusive food service contractor for the New Haven Public Schools for the last four years, I am concerned that New Haven may have been denied the benefit of possible food rebates and discounts Aramark may have received after purchasing food from processors and manufacturers.

The United States Department of Agriculture recently adopted rules and regulations in connection with the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs, clearly requiring the amount of such discounts to be passed along to the school districts on whose behalf such purchases were made. I am concerned that Aramark may have failed to give New Haven the benefit of any rebates or discounts it may have received in connection with its contract to provide food services.

I am deeply concerned as well about reports of deficient food quality and service, which have led to complaints to my office and elsewhere. Such potential problems, combined with the fiscal impact on New Haven of financial practices, are significant and troubling.

Given the possible impacts on New Haven and the state, my office is reviewing issues raised by the food service contractual relationship between Aramark and New Haven.

I am requesting that you provide answers to the questions below and documents supporting and otherwise relevant to the questions and your answers, by April 28, 2008:

1. Please describe, and provide all documents relevant to, Aramark’s handling of rebates and discounts with the New Haven food services contract.

2. Please describe, and provide all documents relevant to, profit and loss statements since 2004 for the food service program, including any amounts Aramark has billed New Haven for services “not incurred or not approved.”
3. Please indicate which other Connecticut cities or towns, if any, are served by Aramark.
4. Please provide all records of complaints relating to food service or quality, including health or diversity of offerings.

Finally, I strongly urge that Aramark provide information sought through FOI requests that have been made to the New Haven Board of Education. This information is vital to thoughtful consideration and evaluation, and citizen input.

I appreciate Aramark’s cooperation in this matter and look forward to hearing from you promptly.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

RB/pas

