

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli
110 State Street – 9th. Floor
Albany, NY 12236

August 26, 2009

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli,

We are writing you on a matter of great importance.

Like most Americans and New York residents, we are outraged by Scotland's release of Pan Am Flight 103 terrorist Abdel Baset al-Megrahi and we are equally appalled by the "hero's welcome" that this convicted mass murderer received when he arrived home to his native Libya.

What is most disturbing, however, is new information that shows that this release was somehow influenced by the desire for United Kingdom-based companies to forge closer economic ties with Libya. It cannot be acceptable for any nation to turn a blind eye to mass murder in exchange for creating profit opportunities for its corporations.

To send a clear message to Scotland and all other nations of the world that we will not accept or condone these types of activities, we are asking you to divest the state pension fund from any U.K.-based companies that conduct business with the Libyan government.

As you know, many of the 270 people who lost their lives in this act of terrorism were American. A good number among them were New York residents. We dishonor their memory if we do not respond appropriately and aggressively to this horribly misguided decision.

We owe it to them and to these victims' families to ensure that not one penny from this state goes to benefit the Libyan government -- or those who seek to profit from a relationship with them.

Mr. Comptroller, we applaud your previous actions to divest from companies that conduct business with the Sudanese and Iranian governments. We are hopeful that you will continue this state's strong stance against rewarding nations and companies that condone terrorism and have no regard for human rights by adopting what is outlined in this letter.

At your convenience, we will be available to further discuss this proposal. If you feel that you need legislative authority to divest, please be aware that we are prepared to introduce legislation to give you that authority. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

Handwritten signature of Craig M. Johnson.

Craig M. Johnson,
Senator, 7th District

Handwritten signature of David J. Valesky.

David J. Valesky
Senator, 49th District