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## 2013 Session Review

Greetings Friends,

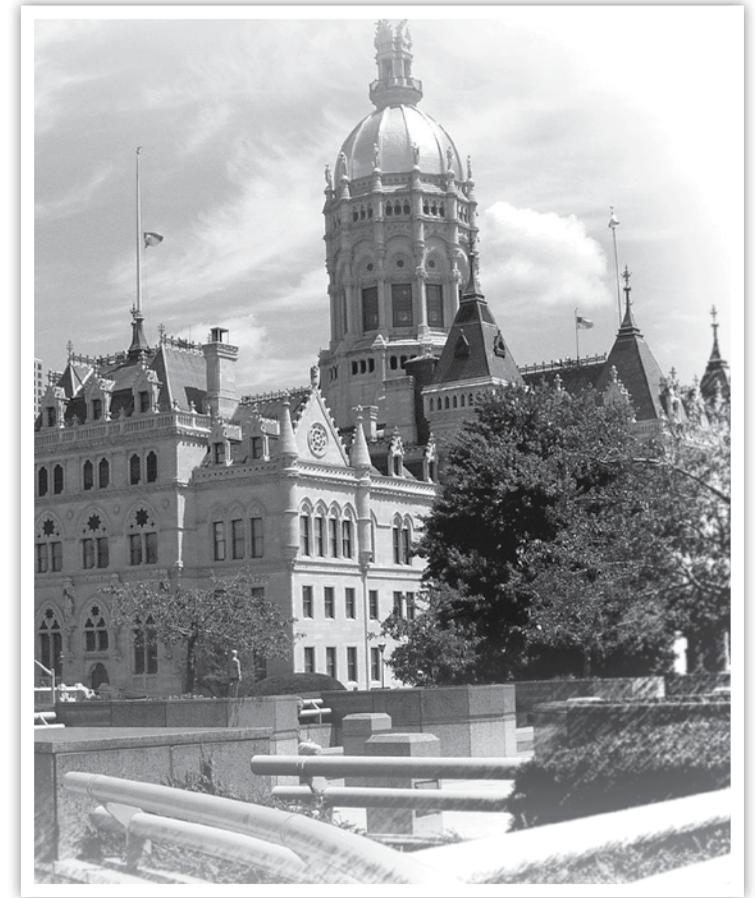
Now that the 2013 legislative session is over, I wanted to reflect on some of our accomplishments and gain your feedback. While we were able to make many improvements in our state, we still faced a very difficult budget year where many important programs and services faced funding cuts. I am pleased that through all of that, East Haven has remained whole, and even got a small funding boost in the state budget. Thank you for all your calls, letters, emails, and for taking the time to meet with me throughout the session. Be assured that I will continue to fight for East Haven in Hartford so that your voices are heard.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JAMES ALBIS**  
SERVING THE 99TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT-EAST HAVEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JAMES ALBIS

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## RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

It is imperative that we provide hard working people in this state with a living wage. That is why I lead the effort to pass a minimum wage increase to \$9.00 over two years. Small business owners know that paying their workers more than the minimum required by law leads to dedicated, happier employees who can also afford to be consumers.

Over 3,000 households in East Haven have a minimum wage earner. The vast majority of these workers are over 20 years old and work more than part-time hours. Even a full-time minimum wage earner makes less than the federal poverty level, and most work at big companies like McDonald's and Wal-Mart. I support increasing the minimum wage because it assists those who need help the most by putting money into the pockets of people who will go out and spend it at small businesses in our community. This is a victory for workers and for small businesses in Connecticut.

## DEFEATING THE ENERGY AUCTION

After hearing from so many of you regarding the proposed energy auction, I became a leader in the fight to remove it from the budget. While the stated goal of the auction was to lower prices, this was only guaranteed for the first year – there were no protections to ensure that rates remained low after that. Additionally, many of you choose the standard offer because you prefer its convenience, and by weakening the pool of standard offer customers we would have opened up the floodgates for rate increases down the road for everyone in our state.

I helped lead the fight by cosponsoring an amendment to remove the energy auction from the budget and ensure that consumers were protected. Connecticut energy costs are already higher than most states, and this one-time revenue gain would have pushed those costs even higher for folks who can hardly afford to pay any more. I am thoroughly

pleased that the energy auction was removed from the final budget. For other energy-related issues feel free to contact me or call the United Illuminating Company at **203-499-2000**.

## PRESERVING EAST HAVEN'S STATE AID

In the biennial budget we passed this year I fought to preserve the funding East Haven relies on to provide the town's services, and secured an increase of \$400,000 in state aid for East Haven. Without this state assistance our property tax bills would be nearly **12 mills higher at 42.5**.

Included in that additional assistance was a 5.28% increase in Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) funding. This money will go directly into our school system for programs aimed at providing extra assistance for our students, such as the Extended School Day Program at East Haven High School.

## PRIZED LINKED SAVINGS

I proudly drafted and advocated for H.B. 5564, An Act Encouraging Increased Savings Deposits. This legislation has proven to motivate individuals to save money by rewarding smart savings behavior through a promotional raffle conducted by secure banks and credit unions.

The savings rate of Americans has been falling in the past half century as we rely more and more on credit. Families depend on savings when something unexpected arises. With the present climate of job insecurity and adjustable interest rates, savings play a key role in maintaining a family's stability, and this new law will give valuable incentive to those families. I am very pleased that this legislation passed and am available to answer further questions regarding this exciting new program.



## USEFUL NUMBERS

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