

Helping to Create Jobs

We implemented a number of job creating measures this year, including:

- » Passing a bipartisan jobs bill that helps small businesses by: expanding job creation tax benefits; subsidizing training; making more capital investment funds available; cutting the business entity tax in half; and streamlining and expediting permitting processes
- » Expanding the UConn Health Center in Farmington and creating a UConn Tech Park in Storrs
- » Creating the Connecticut Bioscience Collaborative program that brings together the world-renowned Jackson Labs, UConn and Yale to position Connecticut as an international leader in the fast-growing field of customized medicine
- » Encouraging large companies to add jobs or move to our state under the "First Five" program as expanded in the special session
- » Saving our vocational technical schools that teach the skills that put people to work
- » Remediating and developing brownfields as an economic driver

Need a job? Here are resources that can help...

CT JobCentral

An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs and upload their resume and access various employment-related information. www.jobcentral.org/CT

CT Job & Career Connection

Online resource for individuals seeking employment by providing self-assessment tools to find the right occupation, general information about various careers and various links to search for jobs and employers. www.ctjobandcareer.org

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Rep. Brian Becker
Legislative Office Building, Room 4009
Hartford, CT 06106

State Representative



Brian Becker

Proudly Serving Avon, Farmington and West Hartford | 19th District

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

Legislative Office Building
Room 4009
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585

www.housedems.ct.gov/Becker



www.housedems.ct.gov/Becker



BRIAN BECKER
State Representative

Proudly Serving
Avon, Farmington and West Hartford
19th House District

CAPITOL REPORT 2011

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Speaking with many of you, I came away with many ideas I thought would make a difference. During my first legislative session, I worked to the best of my ability to implement those ideas. Here are some that became law.

Budget. We faced huge budget challenges, a mess too big to fix with only tax increases or cuts. We protected those most in need, and we maintained city and town aid rather than add to the local tax burden. We sought the right balance in a tough year.

Government Efficiency. I authored HB 5780, a bill that eliminates barriers in prior law that prevented towns and cities from working together. The bill, which passed unanimously in the House and Senate, speeds and simplifies the approval process for regional agreements, saving our towns and cities time and money.

Energy. High energy costs hurt consumers and businesses alike. As a member of the Energy and Technology Committee, I worked on an energy efficiency bill that became part of the omnibus energy bill (SB 1243), helping reduce energy costs in the state, improving efficiency and encouraging more local renewable energy generation. It also:

- » Creates the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), charging it with developing a comprehensive energy procurement plan for the state and a plan to reduce energy usage in state buildings
- » Allows the Clean Energy Fund to be used for energy efficiency projects
- » Allows municipalities to establish loan programs to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects

I proposed a bill to bring together businesses, academic institutions, government agencies and workers to develop strategies to improve communication and cooperation in the energy-related jobs marketplace and workforce. The goal: for businesses to communicate their needs to educators, then work to create R&D programs for students to meet those needs. This bill became part of the Majority Leaders' Job Growth Roundtable Bill (HB 6525).

Looking Ahead. We made progress, but more needs to be done. I continue to work with legislators on both sides of the aisle to find additional cost savings. A bipartisan group will focus on each state agency's performance and efficiency. Our hope is to identify additional agencies, programs and processes that could be combined, eliminated or otherwise made more efficient. Any suggestions you have would be most appreciated.

Best,

State Representative

Brian Becker

Proudly Serving Avon, Farmington and West Hartford | 19th District

October Nor'easter

In the days following the storm, I drove through the 19th district to see the damage firsthand. I accompanied the Governor in West Hartford, where he saw the devastation. I met with people at shelters in all three towns, attended meetings at emergency operation centers and with town managers, and was in regular contact with CL&P officials, pushing for information on power restoration. I also accompanied a CL&P official into the field to observe crews in action and learn more about what was needed to restore power.

Like you, I was frustrated by the lack of timely, accurate information from CL&P that made it difficult for local officials to make important decisions on shelters, school reopenings and other matters. But I am also very grateful to our local leaders, fire, police and emergency personnel, and to the many volunteers who helped us get through this disaster. Despite the tremendous difficulties we faced, our communities pulled together and proved how important we all are to each other.

I have asked local leaders for a written summary of all issues they encountered with CL&P and to give me suggestions for improvements so that I can bring that information, along with what I witnessed personally, to the legislature. Once we assemble all facts and identify shortcomings in detail, we can make appropriate changes to ensure that those problems are addressed.

As a member of the Energy and Technology Committee, I look forward to making improvements to a system that has failed us twice this year.

Streamlining Government

To address the state budget crisis we cut costs and streamlined government. Connecticut is being run more efficiently this year with:

- » State agency consolidations
- » Upgraded technology
- » Over \$700 million in spending cuts and no borrowing
- » Actuarially appropriate contributions to pension funds
- » A commitment to staying below the constitutional spending cap

Safeguarding Recreational Land Use

After a Connecticut Superior Court awarded an injured bicyclist \$2.3 million following an accident at the West Hartford reservoir, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) considered closing its land to the public. In response, we passed legislation that gives the MDC and similar government entities more protection from lawsuits stemming from recreational accidents. The law will help guarantee the public's right to use municipal land for recreation.



Rep. Becker discusses policy in the House Chamber with Rep. Elaine O'Brien of Suffield.

Connecticut's Energy Future

We helped lower energy costs and electric rates -- among the highest in the country -- while moving the state toward clean and efficient energy. By creating the new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), we now have a single state agency focused on energy issues. The bill seeks to help create industries, jobs and businesses necessary to support a clean energy economy for the future.

Like you, I've reduced my electricity use, but it's still too costly. The electric market deregulation enacted years ago hasn't worked, so this year we passed a major act to help alleviate the burden on customers. This legislation should reduce energy costs by:

- » Investing in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies in both homes and businesses
- » Reforming state agencies to provide tighter controls over your energy costs

Towns Save Money by Working Together

Saving money for cities and towns to keep property taxes down is what drove a bill that:

- » Clarifies how municipalities can work together
- » Encourages them to retain or improve services
- » Shortens and simplifies their approval process to enter agreements

WATCH VIDEO ONLINE



Rep. Becker debates regionalism

Rep. Becker debates the regionalism bill on the House floor. The bill shortens, simplifies approval process, saving time and money.

www.housedems.ct.gov/Becker



Rep. Becker with Speaker Donovan and guest Chaplain Rev. Charles Turner leading the Pledge of Allegiance during Special Session on October 26th.

Email Updates *let's keep in touch*

Please note that because I want to do my part in reducing state expenditures, this will be the only unsolicited printed newsletter you will receive from me.

In the future, I will post updates and reports on my legislative website.
www.housedems.ct.gov/Becker.

If you would like to receive updates and reports by email, please send your email address to: Brian.Becker@cga.ct.gov with the subject line – Electronic Communications.

If you need additional assistance or have questions, call: 860.240.8585

sign up for email updates:
housedems.ct.gov/Becker

find us on facebook:
facebook.com/CThousedemocrats

If you do not have access to a computer or would otherwise like to receive updates and reports in paper form, please complete the form below and return it to my office.

Cut along dotted line.

MAIL REQUEST FORM

Please send me a hard copy of future legislative updates and reports.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN & ZIP _____

www.housedems.ct.gov/Becker | 860.240.8585