



State Representative

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Rep. Berger 2013 Legislative Snapshot

I want to thank you for your support and allowing me the opportunity to once again serve as your representative in the Connecticut General Assembly. We are all facing difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner to economic recovery. I am committed to working to bring a leaner more efficient government while protecting our most vulnerable citizens and funding essential services.

The 2013 Legislative Session is now underway. For this term, I have been appointed Deputy Speaker of the House and am serving on the important Finance, Judiciary and Executive Nominations Committees.

Please keep in touch and contact me should you have any issues or concerns. I am convinced that with your input and support, we can address the most pressing needs of our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey J. Berger".

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Addressing Municipal Taxes

Connecticut's urban taxpayers have long endured a heavier share of the tax burden. From home and automobile taxes, to property insurance rates, we must work to address this issue. My appointment as chair of the Municipal Tax Authority subcommittee of the Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (M.O.R.E.) Commission will allow me to focus on municipal taxation issues by hearing from both the public and municipal policy makers. It is our desire to work towards revenue neutral solutions such as the elimination of the disproportionate car tax.

Brownfields, Economic & Community Development

I was a founding member of the Connecticut General Assembly Manufacturing/Advanced Manufacturing Caucus that was created to emphasize and promote the importance of manufacturing in the state. To keep Connecticut economically competitive with neighboring states, we must further support business growth and job creation. Attracting businesses, training workers and providing incentives for them to remain in the state translates into a healthier local economy and better job opportunities. Consolidating and increasing tax credits for new hires, investing in emerging technologies and providing more employment for veterans have shown great success, but more needs to be done. These efforts go hand-in-hand with continued brownfield (abandoned manufacturing sites) remediation that creates jobs and opportunities to put these unproductive parcels back on the tax rolls.

Transportation Improvements

Connecticut's transportation system is the engine that powers the state's economy. Our investments in high-speed rail as well as our commitment to light rail and other mass transit options across the state will help get vehicles off our crowded roads and keep commerce moving. Our push to modernize our roads and bridges and squeeze the federal government for every transportation dollar available will enhance the state's appeal to business and residents alike.

More Affordable Health Care Options

Thanks to the federal health care reform law, Connecticut residents now have more control over their health care options. The new law will provide relief to families that have struggled under the burden of rising health care costs and unfair practices by insurance companies. This includes helping people denied coverage due to chronic conditions get coverage and allowing young adults to remain on their parent's insurance until age 26. In addition, seniors have received rebates to help them afford prescription drugs and more have received preventive screenings with no co-pays.

In the works is our new State Health Insurance Exchange program - an online marketplace where residents will be able to shop for health insurance beginning late 2013. It is simple, accessible and offers more affordable options for individuals without any health insurance.
