

Dear Neighbor,

Making sure Waterbury has the necessary resources to meet its budget obligations, while not shifting the burden to local taxpayers, is my priority in Hartford.

We passed measures and policies to increase state aid to our cities and towns while saving taxpayer's money. The new equalized mill rate for automobiles is a good example of a major structural change that more equitably distributes this previously regressive tax burden.

Another key component to a thriving economy is the creation of jobs and a top-notch transportation system, and we are making steady inroads on both.

Through a series of long-term investments in transportation, such as highways, buses and railways statewide, we are making a commitment to repairing our aging infrastructure, such as bridges, and support connections for commuters and businesses. Also, through several programs and economic development grants, millions have been made available to help retain and attract business.

These efforts have resulted in job growth in Connecticut. Employers added thousands of jobs last year, our unemployment rate has dropped, and our labor force has grown.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions by calling 1-800-842-8267 or emailing Jeffrey.Berger@cga.ct.gov.

Sincerely,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JEFFREY BERGER

PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY

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TAX RELIEF, PROTECTING CRITICAL SERVICES, AND INVESTING IN CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE

TAX RELIEF

- Increased state aid for our towns and cities, including additional funding for towns with tax-exempt properties, to help lower the local property tax burden.
- Waterbury is estimated to receive an additional \$1,420,987 for 2016 and \$10,774,431 for 2017 for general government aid. Due to my efforts, and those of other Waterbury legislators, we achieved a new policy that will result in an estimated addition of \$12,195,418 to our city.
- Car owners will see a significant reduction in the car tax beginning in 2016.

INVESTING IN OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

- Reduced traffic and encouraged economic growth by replacing and repairing aging roads and bridges, and investing in rail and other public transportation.
- Kept taxes low for growing industries like data processing and computer services, and continuing the Research and Design tax credits.

CRITICAL FUNDING PROTECTED

- Protected essential funding that middle class families rely on, including schools, libraries, before- and after-school programs, state parks, and mental health and developmental services.

GREAT SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM NEWS

- The Small Business Express Program provides loans and grants to Connecticut's small businesses to spur job creation and growth.
- This program has led to the creation of 238 jobs in Waterbury and the retention of 595 jobs.
- Across the State the Small Business Express Program has created 5,802 jobs and helped retain 16,555 jobs to date.