



Dear Friends,

The State of Connecticut faced many challenges during the 2013 session. We successfully met those challenges and moved the state in a positive direction. The legislature looked to the future and adopted a Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES), invested in our flagship university and made our state more economically competitive by convening the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE).

In response to the Sandy Hook tragedy the legislature listened to Connecticut residents and worked in a bipartisan manner to improve school security and improve access to mental health services.

We worked to maintain and improve state assistance to small businesses and to support manufacturers. We gave seniors a choice in their long term care. We led the way to reducing utility bills for families and businesses in Connecticut, and took the first step in labeling genetically altered foods.

In addition, I supported a number of bills important to the town of Plainville and the city of New Britain. I am proud to have worked to maintain state funding for our district, including funding for education and other vital projects.

I look forward to working with you during the 2014 session. If you need additional assistance please contact my legislative aide Aurora D'Angona at 860-240-8466.

Sincerely,

Betty Boukus



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth "Betty" Boukus

PROUDLY SERVING PLAINVILLE & NEW BRITAIN | 22ND DISTRICT

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DEPUTY MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIR

BETTY BOUKUS

PROUDLY SERVING THE 22ND DISTRICT
OF PLAINVILLE & NEW BRITAIN

STATE FUNDS FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Flooded Properties along Pequabuck River	\$2 million
Improvements to the New Britain YWCA	\$272,000
Paderewski Park in Plainville	\$151,285
Wheeler Clinic School Expansion	\$2 million

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MANUFACTURING

Both the House and the Senate unanimously passed legislation to encourage Connecticut manufacturers to recruit, hire, and train apprentices, preparing Connecticut's workforce for future manufacturing jobs. We increased the hourly tax credit per apprentice, and coordinated efforts with the state's public schools, colleges, and private sector companies in order to produce a well-trained, experienced workforce here in Connecticut. *(PA 13-265)*

ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESS

We increased our investment in the Small Business Express program, which provides loans and matching grants to businesses with 100 or fewer employees. This is a very successful program that has helped 880 small businesses in the state create more than 3,100 new jobs to date. *(PA 13-239)*

STORM DAMAGE AND HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

This law takes several steps to assist homeowners with problems reported after the recent historic storms. Firstly, it prohibits insurers from declining, cancelling or failing to renew a homeowner's policy solely because of damage due to a catastrophic event such as a hurricane. It also requires that insurance policies cover repairs that match the undamaged areas of a house in color, size, quality and type of material. The law also increases from three to five calendar days the time a homeowner has to rescind a contract they have signed with a public adjuster and requires that this right to cancel be disclosed on the first page of the contract. *(PA 13-138)*



Rep. Boukus honored at YWCA New Britain's 15th Biennial Women in Leadership Award ceremony.



Rep. Boukus leads House debate on the state bond package.



Rep. Chris Wright & Rep. Betty Boukus discuss the Pequabuck River bond funding

INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

This is a new law that will increase UConn's preeminence in research and innovation programs, support outstanding faculty, educate students to meet the state's future workforce needs and make more collaborative partnerships that lead to technological breakthroughs. New legislation invests \$1.55 billion in state bonds for critical construction, renovations, infrastructure and equipment. Our investment in education will pay huge dividends in job growth and quality of life. *(PA 13-233)*

CLEANER MORE AFFORDABLE ENERGY

This year we passed landmark legislation that taps into clean renewable energy by expanding access to natural gas, promoting energy efficiency and lowering the costs for consumers and businesses. Consumers will now have more choice in the fuels they use to heat and cool their homes and businesses, with more access to products and programs that reduce energy use and provide significant savings. *(PA 13-298)*

LABELING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

Connecticut passed a first-in-the-nation genetically modified organisms (GMOs) labeling law. By requiring foods to be labeled under certain circumstances, this legislation would allow consumers to know whether or not their foods contain GMOs and give individuals the ability to make informed choices. The requirement becomes effective once similar laws are enacted in four other states, including one that borders Connecticut, with an aggregate population totaling 20 million. This is a significant first step in the fight to know what is in the food we eat and serve our families. *(PA 13-183)*

STOPPING PRICE GOUGING DURING SEVERE WEATHER

When catastrophic weather events hit our state, it is important that people have access to goods and services. This law ensures reasonable pricing during a severe weather emergency as declared by the Governor. You must be able to buy things like bottled water and batteries without being charged an unconscionably excessive price. Should you need to report incidents of price gouging please call the Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649. *(PA 13-175)*

AGING AT HOME

For many seniors and their families, home is the right place to age and receive care. I voted to help Connecticut's model of Aging in Place become law. Helping seniors to remain in their homes is paramount to their wellbeing and saves money. For additional information please call the Department of Aging at 1-866-218-6631. *(PA 13-250)*

INVESTING IN HOME

This legislative session we reaffirmed our commitment to increasing housing options with the most significant gains for affordable housing in decades. With greater financial commitment to a newly established Department of Housing, and new development projects, we are investing in the people and communities that drive our economy. *(PA 13-234)*

REDUCING ENERGY COSTS

The Commercial and Industrial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program allows property owners to engage in smart, cost cutting energy opportunities. This new statewide program creates an opportunity for reduced energy bills for facilities like YMCA's, YWCA's and Boys and Girls Clubs of Connecticut-with no upfront costs. To apply, the commercial building must be located in a municipality that has opted into C-PACE. To learn more about the C-Pace Program check out their website, www.c-pace.com. *(PA 12-116)*