



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
**LOU
ESPOSITO**

Assistant Deputy Speaker
116th House District

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Dear Neighbor,

During the 2014 legislative session, one of my top priorities is to determine how we can best spur on our recovering economy. We have created a number of successful programs over the last few years, and I will work to extend these programs in order to help even more job seekers and businesses in the future. We have also proposed several new ideas that will help jump-start the economy and get more people back to work.

These programs and proposals are outlined in this mailer. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with your ideas or concerns.

Sincerely,

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
LOU ESPOSITO

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CONNECTICUT
HOUSE DEMOCRATS



JOB CREATION PROGRAMS

We have worked hard in recent sessions to implement programs, like **STEP-UP AND I-BEST**, that have been proven to help Connecticut residents find good jobs and further their education.

STEP-UP events provide small business owners with information about state incentives to hire as well as train workers, better preparing them for work. Businesses may receive subsidies for hiring long-term unemployed workers and veterans returning to the workforce after deployment. Over 2,000 unemployed residents have been hired under Step-Up so far. Every Step-Up event held in Connecticut has seen many participants, far exceeding initial expectations.

The **I-BEST PROGRAM** provides Connecticut residents who don't have a GED the ability to combine GED preparation with job training so they can enter the workforce with the skills and the education to get a job quickly. Also, we will work to adopt a "career pathway" workforce program focused on manufacturing, which will allow adult students to receive an Advanced Manufacturing Certificate. Students will work at a manufacturing facility a few days a week while attending college-level classes.



PROTECTING BUSINESSES FROM "PATENT TROLLS"

This legislation will make it easier for small businesses to protect themselves from business predators. A patent troll is a law firm or individual who neither makes a product nor performs a service, but who attempts to enforce a patent that they did not file. This is a huge financial drain on companies. The legislation aims to reduce the possibility that these "trolls" will unfairly target small businesses.



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ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER | 116TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CREATION OF A CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

We will be working this year to create a statewide port authority, allowing our ports to be alternatives to New York, New Jersey, Boston, and Providence harbors. More ships in our ports will bring jobs to our state and free up our crowded bridges and highways. This potential quasi-public agency would coordinate the development of Connecticut's harbors and would fight to get federal and state funds for dredging and infrastructure improvements to make these ports more competitive. This agency would also be in charge of marketing our ports to the national and international shipping industries and develop entrepreneurial activities associated with these ports.



SOCIAL BENEFIT CORPORATIONS

We are working to create Benefit Corporations, governed by laws of traditional corporations but their purpose must be to make a material, positive impact on society and the environment, so that these for-profit businesses can give back to the community as they succeed financially. By considering social interests in addition to the financial interests of their shareholders, they will report their overall social and environmental performance every year, establishing certain standards for accountability and transparency.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

INFO LINE	211
Department of Labor	860-263-6000
Local CT WORKS	203-867-4030
STEP UP Regional Coordinator	203-624-1493, ext 267

EXPANDING THE ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

This year we will work to expand the highly successful Enterprise Zone program to include areas on or near state universities and college campuses. The program offers tax incentives for businesses to create jobs and make improvements in economically distressed areas. This expansion will promote collaboration between businesses, the educational community and its residents, while improving economic development.