



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Linda M. Gentile

REPRESENTING ANSONIA AND DERBY
104TH HOUSE DISTRICT

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Dear Neighbor,

As the 2014 legislative session progresses, one of my top priorities is to determine how we can best spur on our recovering economy. We have created several 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. Legislative leaders 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 to provide you with more details. As always, please reach out to my office with ideas or concerns you may have.

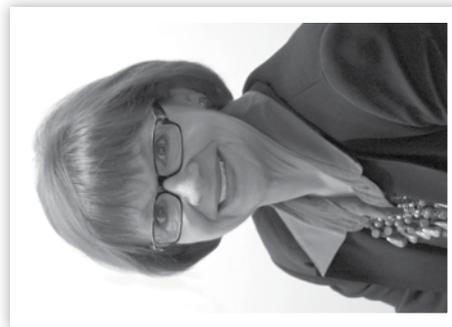
Sincerely,

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Linda M. Gentile

REPRESENTING ANSONIA AND DERBY
104TH HOUSE DISTRICT



Jobs and the Economy Session Update



EXTENSION OF CURRENT JOB CREATION PROGRAMS

We have worked hard in the last few legislative sessions to implement programs, like the **STEP-UP AND I-BEST PROGRAMS**, that have been proven to help Connecticut residents find good jobs and enhance their educations.

STEP-UP events provide small business owners with information about state incentives to hire as well as train workers. 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 so far in Connecticut, including one in Ansonia in 2011, 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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CREATION OF A CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

We will be working 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, pump money into our economy, benefit surrounding communities and take trucks off of our crowded bridges and highways. This potential quasi-public agency would coordinate the development of the Bridgeport, New Haven and New London harbors and would fight to get federal and state funds for dredging and infrastructure improvements, making these ports more competitive. This agency would also be in charge of marketing Connecticut's ports to the national and international shipping industries and develop entrepreneurial activities associated with these ports.



SOCIAL BENEFIT CORPORATIONS

We are interested in creating Benefit Corporations or b-corps, governed by laws of traditional business corporations but their corporate purpose must be to make a material, positive impact on society and the environment, so that for-profit businesses can give back to the community as they succeed financially. The directors of the b-corps must consider social interests in addition to the financial interests of their shareholders and report their overall social and environmental performance every year, establishing certain standards for accountability and transparency.

EXPANDING THE ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

Expanding the highly successful Enterprise Zone program to include areas on or near state universities and college campuses is a priority this year. The program offers tax incentives for businesses to create jobs and make improvements in economically distressed areas. This expansion will create a synergistic relationship between business, the education community and its residents, while improving economic development in key areas. The Enterprise Zone Program is jointly administered by the state and participating towns to assist businesses in these areas, as well as fostering community development.