

**Rep. Bob Godfrey Meets
Oceanographer Robert Ballard!**



Renown oceanographer Robert Ballard was honored by the legislature for his incredible work in undersea exploration and education. He is, of course, famous for the discoveries of

the RMS Titanic, the battleship Bismarck, the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, and John F. Kennedy’s PT-109. “Like many young readers before him, Robert Ballard dreamed of becoming an undersea explorer after reading Jules Verne’s 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Unlike most of Verne’s readers, Ballard went on to realize his dream. His discoveries, and the amazing vehicles he has built to perform his explorations, are even more remarkable than the fanciful adventures of Jules Verne’s Captain Nemo.” (source: Academy of Achievement) He is also the founder of the Jason Project, a hands-on, interactive science education program for elementary school children which includes television uplinks from the bottom of the seas. He’s one of my personal heroes, a great role model, and one of “Connecticut’s Finest.”

Bob Godfrey - Representing Danbury



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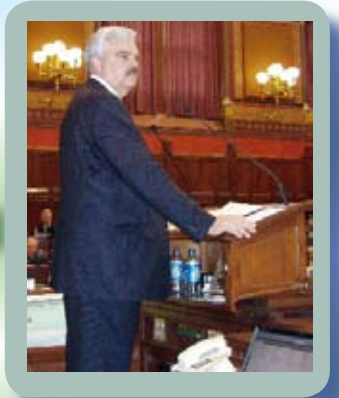
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**SHEDDING
NEW LIGHT ON
THE ENVIRONMENT**

**YOUR
STATE
REPRESENTATIVE
BOB
GODFREY**



**PROUDLY SERVING THE
110th DISTRICT OF DANBURY**



Rep. Bob Godfrey Reports On Our Environment

Preserving Connecticut's Coastline



Recently, a United States court ruling effectively stopped the proposed 50-mile natural gas pipeline of Broadwater Energy from further development. Throughout this project, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has defended both the environmental and economic interests of our state. While the

project certainly presents an opportunity for energy efficiency, we must proceed carefully for the sake of the environment. In order to insure the safety of Connecticut's coastline, the legislature took action that requires the Attorney General to recommend that the United States Coast Guard designate a hazard zone around any liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal. This legislation also asks the Attorney General to recommend that the federal government designate a security zone around the facility, and any security service must receive legislative and executive approval. **(Public Act 07-94)**

Brownfields

This bill sets up a system to reclaim and clean up our aging industrial infrastructure. The Connecticut Development Agency can guarantee bank loans and issue bonds on behalf of towns to accomplish these goals. Owners can voluntarily clean up their properties, and the conditions under which the state can sue owners have been greatly broadened. This could change the look of our city landscapes. **(Public Act 07-233)**

Invasive Plants

Money was included in the budget to control invasive plants in the state. The dollars will be used to develop a rapid response policy and to hire a coordinator to educate the public and run the program. Additionally, grants will be available to help communities control invasive species on public lands and in public waters, saving our state beauty. **(Public Act 07-4)**



Electronic Recycling



Public Act 07-189 creates a mandatory recycling program for discarded computers and televisions. This bill requires manufacturers to participate in a program to implement and finance the collection, transportation, and recycling of covered electronic devices (CEDs).

Toxic trash has become the fastest growing portion of the waste stream. Electronic waste (often referred to as e-waste) can contain lead, mercury, cadmium, brominated flame retardants and other toxic chemicals that can damage kidneys, nervous and reproductive systems, and cause developmental problems. Whether these products are buried in landfills, incinerated or shipped to developing nations, they pose a very real threat to human health and the environment. This public health threat has been realized by our legislative leaders and this bill will provide a more effective way to discard electronic waste.

Considering the high cost of recycling and the toxic nature of these items, it is necessary to develop a new plan for dealing with this waste. While state government will oversee and enforce the program, the actual producers of the CEDs will establish, run and finance the recycling operation. Additionally, local governments can help educate residents and participate in the form of collection sites, and retailers will assist with education and will not be allowed to sell equipment from non-compliant manufacturers.

This legislation makes it easy, free and accessible for all residents in the state to recycle computers and televisions with no or minimal cost to municipalities. **Public Act 07-189** is designed to expand recycling opportunities and provide an infrastructure for future electronic waste disposal programs.

School Bus Emissions



School busses are necessary to keep our educational system running and our children safe. It is also vital to have a healthy environment for our children to live, play and learn. In an effort to respond to both of these issues, the legislature took a major step forward this year by requiring certain full-sized school busses to be retrofitted with new pollution reducing emissions systems. A bus must meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions standards or use compressed natural gas or another alternative fuel certified by either the EPA or the California Air Resources Board in order to reduce soot emissions by 85%. Buses must be in compliance with the standards by September 1, 2010. Towns and school boards will be reimbursed for these costs by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as long as they meet the guidelines and are within the costs set by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Department of Environmental Protection. In addition the Department of Environmental Protection will develop an outreach plan to educate municipalities, school boards, and bus companies about the emissions requirements and to help them retrofit their busses. **(Public Act 07-4)**

Preserving Farmland

A twelve member Farmland Preservation Advisory Board may now help the Department of Agriculture purchase rights of development to preserve farmland through the issuance of unallocated bond funds. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture can request the bond funds for pending land preservation transactions above \$5 million per the approval of the State Bond Commission. **(Public Act 07-162)**

