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# End of Session Update

With the 2013 session of the General Assembly completed, I thought I'd report to you on a few issues important to Mansfield. Please send me an email or call my office if you have questions or concerns about these issues or a perspective to share on another topic. I am honored to serve as your Representative in the State House and your input helps me to better serve Mansfield.

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## MUNICIPAL AID TO MANSFIELD

This year we voted on the state's biennial budget that will keep Mansfield's state funding the same as it was this past year. I am proud to say that I successfully fought to preserve the PILOT program which is critically important to Mansfield. As a result, Mansfield will receive \$1.1 million more in state support than was conservatively assumed when the town budget was adopted at the town meeting. The good news has allowed local government leaders to avoid many of the "doomsday cuts" that would have been necessary if state funding had not been fully restored.

## NEXT GENERATION CONNECTICUT

This law provides UConn with funds over the next twelve years to make improvements to campus, especially the aging engineering and science buildings. This program will aid UConn in continuing to be competitive academically, by recruiting world renowned talent as students, professors and researchers. The legislation also funds the relocation and expansions of UConn's regional campuses.



## AGRONOMY FARM OVERSIGHT

My neighbors approached me with concerns about pesticide use at UConn's agronomy farm. To help shed light, I sponsored an effort that requires the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection to conduct an independent third-party analysis of UConn's practices and the risk to local wells and to recommend any changes to current farm practices.

## UConn AND AGRICULTURAL PURCHASES

At a Mansfield Tomorrow planning meeting dedicated to discussing farming, someone suggested to me that local farms could benefit from improvements to purchasing policy at UConn. The university is one of the state's largest purchasers of fresh fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products as it prepares 180,000 meals per week during the school year. So, I championed a new law that requires public higher education institutions to give preference to Connecticut agricultural products grown and cut the red tape that farmers face when supplying products to the schools.

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