



RESTORING THE ECONOMY AND CREATING JOBS

The General Assembly will continue to focus on job growth and the economy as well as the overall health and wellness of local businesses.

As the 2014 legislative session moves forward, I hope for a productive year full of promise for our quality of life. With your input, we can successfully address our state's challenges.

Please keep in touch and contact me should you have any issues or concerns. I would welcome and appreciate hearing from you.

Together, we will address the most pressing needs facing the State of Connecticut and the 16th District. Thank you. Best wishes.

State Representative
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOHN K. HAMPTON

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SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES:

The General Assembly has made a commitment to help small businesses thrive during difficult times.

Many business owners may not be aware of the state programs we have put together to aid local businesses. Administered through the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), these programs provide a direct investment in our local businesses. Two examples are the Economic and Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) and the Small Business Express Program.

If your business needs an influx of capital and meets the requirements, MAA provides low-interest loans and incentives. It is designed for projects that have significant economic development potential.

The Small Business Express Program was created during the legislature's special session on job growth last year. It provides loans and grants to small business to spur job creation and overall growth.

The STEP UP program -- subsidized training and employment program-- is a bridge that allows employers to expand their business by hiring job seekers and in some cases provide them with special training paid for through grants.

In all 1,400 jobs have been filled around the state by nearly 400 employers who have asked to be part of the STEP UP program. The program is heading to Simsbury this spring so local employers can apply and be awarded grants.

There are two types of grants. One is for training, the other is for wages. The subsidized wage program provides money to businesses for new hires up to \$20 per hour, reimbursable up to a maximum of \$12,000 (excluding benefits), over a 180 day period. The small manufacturer training grant program provides incentives of up to \$12,500 for one new hire for six months.

More information on all of these programs is available through the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Small Business Affairs (SBA).

You can reach SBA at 860-270-8215.