

Niantic Bay Boardwalk

Working together with local East Lyme officials, we succeeded in passing legislation that required the Department of Transportation to install signage on Interstate 95 at Exit 74 for the Niantic Bay Boardwalk. This is expected to draw additional visitors to the town, thereby benefiting the local economy.



Route 11



Last year I co-sponsored legislation to make it easier for the Route 11 Greenway Commission to obtain land for the Greenway, and allow the Commission to seek state funding for that purpose. That legislation set the stage for this year's effort to obtain \$1 million in bond funding to match available federal funds. I remain hopeful that the final bonding bill will continue to include these funds.

With the recent release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the completion of Route 11, a coordinated effort by citizen activists and elected officials continues to keep the project in the public's eye and pressure on state and federal decision-makers.

Hurricane Shutter Requirement Overturned

In response to the uproar created on the shoreline by the insurance industry's attempt to force homeowners to install expensive storm shutters in order to obtain or renew insurance policies, I co-sponsored a bill that will prevent such practices in the future. This new law prohibits insurers from refusing to issue or renew homeowner's insurance policies solely because the homeowner has not installed storm shutters to mitigate damage from hurricanes and severe storms. The bill also requires insurers to offer premium discounts to those who voluntarily choose to install storm shutters or impact-resistant glass.

Rep. Jutila attends a bill signing for the hurricane shutters legislation.



Dear Neighbors:

Although one of the most challenging in recent memory, the 2007 legislative session was marked by a number of significant accomplishments.

The initiatives taken by the General Assembly this year in healthcare, job creation, education, the environment and energy reform will improve the quality of life in Connecticut, while helping to build a strong foundation for Connecticut's future. In addition, sound investments made to shore up the teachers' retirement fund, continue paying down debt and bolster the state's rainy day fund will pay dividends down the road.

Although I preferred the Finance Committee's original tax package that would have provided tax relief to 95% of Connecticut taxpayers, I am still pleased that the budget

eventually passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor addresses the needs of our state without increasing income tax rates for anyone. That said, I will continue to fight for real property tax reform going forward.

All and all, this turned out to be a very productive session, some highlights of which I have included in this newsletter.

As I have said many times before, I consider it a great honor and privilege to serve as your representative at the Capitol. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas you may have.

Sincerely,

TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, please fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

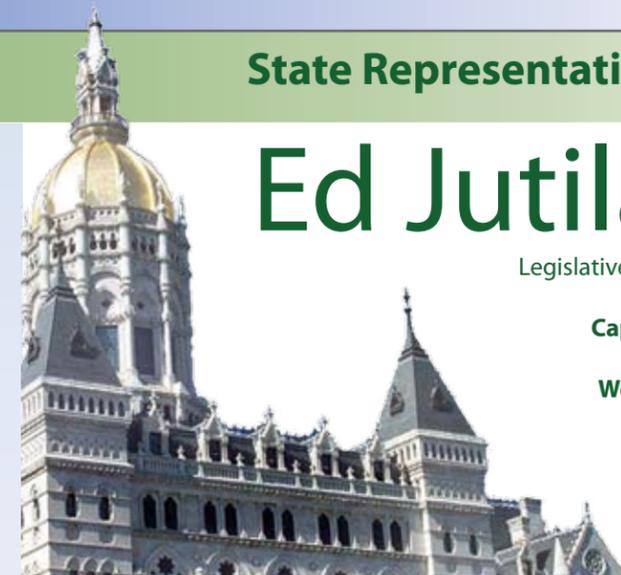
- Seniors
- Business
- Land Use
- Environment
- Crime
- Education
- Children
- Municipalities

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

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I am proud to represent the 37th District which includes the towns of East Lyme and Salem.



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LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



Protecting Our Children

Jessica's Law

The General Assembly passed Connecticut's version of Jessica's Law, establishing a new crime of aggravated sexual assault of a child under age 13. This crime will carry a mandatory minimum prison term of 25 years for a first offense and 50 years for a second offense.

Increasing Penalties for the Sale of Tobacco Products to Minors



Based on an idea presented to me by East Lyme High School Senior Shawn Young, I succeeded in passing legislation aimed at curtailing underage smoking. The new law doubles the penalty for minors who attempt to purchase tobacco products. Dealers and distributors will also see higher fines for selling to minors.

School Bus Emissions and Safety

In order to ensure a healthy environment for our children, the legislature took a major step forward this year by requiring certain full-sized school buses to be retrofitted with new pollution reducing emissions systems, and appropriated funds to cover the costs. And in response to a tragic accident involving an unqualified bus driver, we also took quick action to require DMV to notify public transportation providers when any driver's commercial license has been suspended. The law also requires expanded drug testing with an automatic disqualification for those who test positive.



Veterans and the Military

Disruption of Funerals

In recent years, a hideous radical group has attempted to disrupt the funerals of members of the United States Armed Services such as the one held in East Lyme last year for Army Captain Jason Hamill, a local hero. To prevent these disruptions, the General Assembly passed a bill making it a crime to protest within 150 feet of a funeral. Fortunately, the family, friends and many others paying their respects to Captain Hamill were well served by the Patriot Guard Riders Motorcycle Group and local students who formed a human shield. This bill will provide an additional legal shield going forward.



Office of Military Affairs

Recognizing the need to protect the Groton Sub Base from future base closing commissions, legislation adopted this year creates an Office of Military Affairs. The primary responsibilities of this new agency will include protecting Connecticut's military assets, encouraging the relocation of military missions to Connecticut, and supporting the development of our defense and homeland security industries.

Budget Briefs

- ✓ Increases grants to vocational agriculture centers from \$700 to \$1,350 for each student.
- ✓ Authorizes bonds fully funding the state teachers' pension fund, while saving taxpayers an estimated \$2.8 billion over a 25 year period.
- ✓ Sets aside \$136 million of the state's surplus for the 'rainy day' reserve fund.
- ✓ Provides \$30.2 million over two years for grants to students attending public colleges and \$23.9 million for students attending private colleges.
- ✓ Expands the state's tax credit program for the film industry, this time providing tax credits for capital projects, such as new studio space for film and digital media.
- ✓ Continues casino impact aid to Southeastern Connecticut towns, including Salem and East Lyme.
- ✓ Fully funds all 270 students who are clients of the Department of Mental Retardation and who graduated from high school in need of adult services.
- ✓ Reimburses municipalities and state agencies for one-half the cost of the required Firefighter I certification program.



Rep. Jutilla advocates for emergency medical care legislation at a General Law Committee press conference.

Our Commitment to Healthcare

- ✓ Raises from 18 to 26 the eligible age for young adults covered under their parent's insurance.
- ✓ Increases reimbursements paid to hospitals and other Medicaid providers to provide **more access for patients**.
- ✓ Provides funding to expand the reach of our **school-based health centers**.
- ✓ Guarantees coverage for **newborns** for the critical first four months of life. Subsidizes HUSKY B for kids in families up to **300%** of federal poverty level.
- ✓ Provides coverage for **pregnant women** up to 250% of the federal poverty level
- ✓ Expands **parental eligibility** of HUSKY insured children.



Fighting the High Cost of Energy



Sales tax exemption on hybrid and fuel efficient cars

Permanent sales tax exemptions on:



- fluorescent light bulbs
- solar energy
- programmable thermostats
- energy efficient windows and doors
- energy efficient water heaters, furnaces, and boilers
- replacement air conditioners

Protecting our Landscape and Property

Farmland Preservation

Under the "Face of Connecticut" bill, open space, farmland, watershed land and heritage sites will receive more protection through increased grant ceilings for the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Grant Program.

Eminent Domain

In the wake of the *Kelo* decision, Connecticut's eminent domain laws have been overhauled to protect property owners' rights. Municipalities will now face a number of new hurdles before they can take private property, and would have to pay landowners 125% of fair market value in the event that eminent domain is used. These new requirements include a public hearing and approval of the town's legislative body by a two-thirds vote. While this is an improvement, I preferred legislation banning the use of eminent domain for economic development that unfortunately failed to pass.

Transportation

Key Projects for Southeastern Connecticut

- ✓ Expanded Shore Line East service providing for additional daily service, as well as new weekend service.
- ✓ \$ 3 million per year in FY 08 and FY 09 to support the Southeastern Connecticut Tourist Transit System.
- ✓ \$750,000 for the Southeastern Connecticut Intermodal Transportation Center.



Rep. Jutilla answers a reporter's question on the expansion of Shore Line East rail service.

