

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**ED JUTILA**  
 PROUDLY SERVING EAST LYME AND SALEM



Dear friends and neighbors:

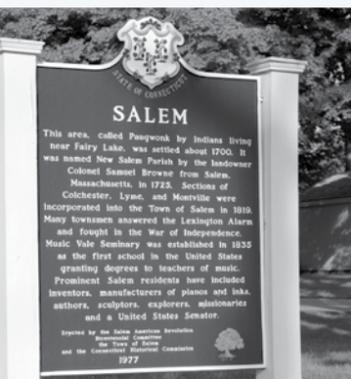
When the 2014 legislative session convened in February, our primary mission was clear: encourage economic growth and job creation, invest in our children's future, and adopt a balanced budget on time, within the constitutional spending cap, with no new taxes. By the time we adjourned at midnight May 7th, these goals had been achieved, and much more.

In addition, we were still able to make other important investments, increase municipal aid, and make further advances in consumer and environmental protection. Included among these investments are two that have great potential in southeastern Connecticut: the establishment of the Connecticut Port Authority and a new program to promote bioscience and biotechnology in the region. These legislative initiatives taken by the General Assembly this year will help to improve the quality of life in Connecticut, while building a solid foundation for further advances going forward. Finally, an additional \$43.4 million will be deposited into our Rainy Day Fund as a prudent measure to provide protection against future economic downturns.

In the end, this turned out to be a very productive session, some highlights of which I have included in this newsletter. Once again, I thank you for your e-mails, letters and phone calls during the legislative session and throughout the year.

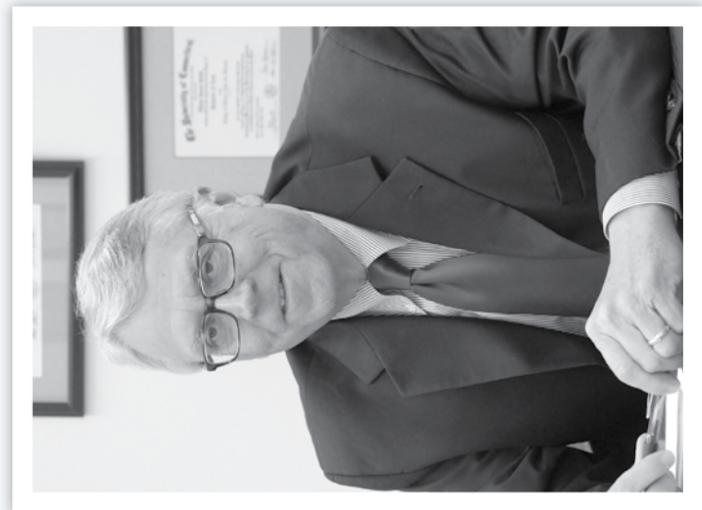
I hope you find this information useful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely, *Ed Jutila*



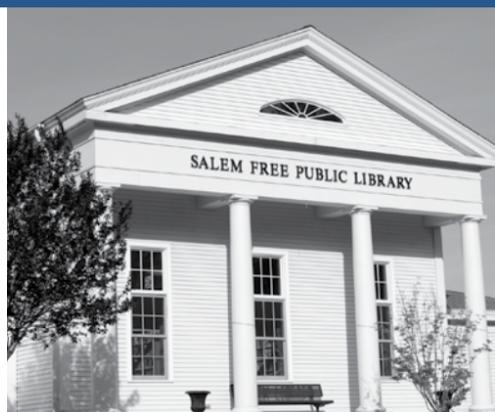
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**CAPITOL UPDATE 2014**

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**CAPITOL UPDATE 2014**

PROUDLY SERVING  
 EAST LYME AND SALEM | 37TH DISTRICT



## CONSUMER PROTECTION

**STRENGTHENING THE DO NOT CALL LIST** While we have already created a Do Not Call List to address unwanted sales pitches at home and on our cell phones, some companies continue to make unwanted calls anyway. Penalties will now be increased, and text messages included. We also doubled fines on robocalls that fail to disconnect when you hang up. To find out more, please call 1-888-382-1222.

**PROTECTION FROM PREDATORY ENERGY RATES** This new law responds to complaints from many residents regarding third party energy providers and confusing energy bills. Many consumers who looked to save money by changing suppliers soon discovered that their rates jumped after an introductory period. This legislation prohibits energy suppliers from offering consumers short-term “teaser” energy contracts with low rates, only to switch to much higher variable rates later. Consumers will also be able to switch back to the standard rate charged by CL&P within 72 hours. The legislation also requires more transparent billing, and prohibits deceptive sales practices.

**TREE TRIMMING** An increase in severe storms in recent years has led to more lengthy and widespread power outages for Connecticut residents, with toppled trees and broken limbs major culprits. Tree trimming is an important preventive measure. In response to concerns expressed by residents, however, we passed legislation that gives homeowners more say over whether trees on their property can be cut down or trimmed by utility companies. The utilities will now need to work more closely with residents and local tree wardens to make these decisions together. The burden will rest with utility companies to show the need to trim or remove trees they believe threaten the electricity supply.

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

### ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Government regulations are essential to responsible governing, but some can be onerous and confusing. In the past year, state agencies performed a comprehensive review of their regulations to uncover those that are outdated, unnecessarily burdensome or ineffective. As a result, hundreds of pages of regulations that affect Connecticut residents and businesses will be rescinded. The implementation of the e-Regulations System, which puts all state regulations online where they can be easily accessed and searched, will contribute to greater transparency. This system will also create automatically generated alerts that interested parties can set up to be notified when a specific agency is in the process of creating or changing a regulation. As Chairman of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I had the privilege of introducing this bill, originally proposed by the Governor, on the floor of the House.



Representative Jutila confers with House Majority Leader Representative Joe Aresimowicz (Southington) regarding Government Administration and Elections Committee legislation. Ed is serving his second year as Chairman of the Committee.

## JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

**ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY** This bill establishes the Connecticut Port Authority to improve our ports, increase commerce, and create maritime jobs, while also reducing the strain and congestion on our state roads and bridges. The new Port Authority will seek to take advantage of Connecticut’s shoreline to offer services for freight shipping to the northeastern United States as an alternative to New York and Boston. It will oversee the rebuilding and restoration of our maritime assets, and develop a marketing campaign to enhance marine commerce that focuses on New London, New Haven, and Bridgeport.

**GROWING THE BIOSCIENCE INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT** Southeastern Connecticut has a strong tradition in the bioscience industry. In order to strengthen and support this industry, a program to promote and support the development of bioscience and biotechnology in southeastern Connecticut will be created by the Department of Economic and Community Development as a result of a bill spearheaded by the local legislative delegation. The program is required to include outreach to entrepreneurs, a marketing plan, formation of a working group of business and community leaders, and acquisition of a facility to serve as a business incubator.

**SUPPORTING BUSINESS TO GROW AND TRAIN WORKERS** Small manufacturers in Connecticut are an important source of jobs, just as small business in general is a major driver of economic growth. We have already taken important steps to provide support to these businesses through programs such as the Manufacturing Reinvestment Account (MRA). The MRA is designed to help small manufacturers fund capital investments and train their workers. This year, we made it possible for more businesses to take advantage of the program by expanding it to companies with as many as 150 employees.



Representative Jutila discusses legislative issues with a group visiting on their legislative advocacy day at the Capitol.

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION (CONTINUED)

**EXAMINING OUR TAX STRUCTURE** Connecticut’s tax structure is sometimes criticized for being complex, volatile and regressive. This year, we created a panel of experts to conduct a thorough review of all of the taxes imposed by the state and its municipalities, including the income tax, sales tax and property tax. The tax structure will be examined to determine how fair, equitable and stable it is, as well as whether or not it encourages economic growth. When complete, the legislature is expected to use this study to consider new tax policies for the state.

## ENVIRONMENT

**PROTECTING OPEN SPACE** Earlier in the year we received the good news that we had secured a **\$100,000** state grant to support the purchase of 41 more acres in Oswegatchie Hills The Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve overlooks the Niantic River and is currently over 400 acres in size. Purchasing the 41-acre Bayreuther Property, which abuts the current preserve, will bring the total preserved acreage for Oswegatchie Hills to 461 acres. The preserve is open to the public and offers numerous hiking trails over this large undeveloped coastal waterfront woodland.

**FRACKING WASTE** This year I joined a number of other legislators in co-sponsoring legislation to place a three-year moratorium on the storage of fracking waste in our state. Although Connecticut does not possess the natural gas that would lead to actual fracking here, we need to ensure our state remains free from the byproducts from other states. During the three-year moratorium, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will study the contents of the fluids and develop regulations based on these findings.



Commissioner Rob Klee of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection speaks to a group of East Lyme Middle School students during an Oswegatchie Hills nature hike.

## EDUCATION

**MAKING OUR SCHOOLS SAFER** This year we authorized \$22 million for another round of school security grants. This program helped many schools around the state add additional security infrastructure last year, with more than \$21 million in grants distributed.

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL PRE-K** The newly established Office of Early Childhood will develop a plan to improve access to preschool programs and achieve universal pre-K in Connecticut. In the meantime, we have increased school readiness reimbursements and added 1,020 new preschool slots.

**GO BACK TO GET AHEAD** The Go Back to Get Ahead initiative will encourage Connecticut residents who have some college credits, but have not attained either an associate’s or bachelor’s degree, to return to the state’s universities, community technical colleges or Charter Oak State College to complete their degrees. Students who are eligible for the program will be able to receive up to 3 free college courses.

**CHET BABY SCHOLARSHIP** This new initiative offers a one-time incentive of \$100 to families of Connecticut children who open a CHET 529 savings account by the child’s first birthday, or within the first year after adoption. Families that contribute \$150 in the first 4 years will receive a one-time match of \$150.