



Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session.

Each year brings a new set of challenges, and the 2015 session was no different. Despite a serious budget deficit and the need to encourage economic growth, my colleagues and I passed a balanced budget that provides property and car tax relief for middle-class families and small businesses, consumer protections, and programs that empower Connecticut's families.

We also created the framework for a once-in-a-generation investment in our transportation infrastructure. This will significantly improve the quality of life for residents who use our roads and rail system.

In addition to delivering property and car tax relief, we passed legislation that protects seniors and brought transparency to the rapidly changing health care landscape. And in the aftermath of the largest data breach in state history, we set new cybersecurity standards for companies handling residents' personal data.

We stood up for military veterans, students, and Connecticut workers whose jobs and livelihoods are under threat from out-of-state competition.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful and will feel free to call or email me for any reason — legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative and I welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

Sincerely,

David W. Kiner  
State Representative



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DAVID W. KINER

PROUDLY SERVING THE 59TH HOUSE DISTRICT | EAST WINDSOR & ENFIELD



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DAVID W. KINER**

PROUDLY SERVING THE 59TH HOUSE DISTRICT  
EAST WINDSOR & ENFIELD



**CAPITOL UPDATE 2015**



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## HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

This year we allocated more funds for the highly successful Small Business Express Program. We are also requiring the Department of Economic and Community Development to dedicate funds to develop a program for construction projects for minority business enterprises. These moves will create jobs and better economic opportunities for Connecticut families.

## ENCOURAGING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF BROWNFIELDS

To encourage the development of more brownfields, we made some changes to the Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) brownfield remediation programs, which provide grants to municipalities and economic development agencies to assess and remediate contaminated properties. We are now allowing DECD to make grants for preparing comprehensive plans to remediate and redevelop multiple brownfields and to award additional grants for ongoing projects. In addition, state-owned and formerly state-owned brownfields that had been transferred to other parties that were previously ineligible for DECD's programs may now participate.

## REDUCING REQUIRED TESTING IN SCHOOLS

Since the rollout of No Child Left Behind almost 15 years ago, standardized testing has come under a lot of scrutiny. One area of concern is that there are simply too many tests. For example, juniors in high school are currently required to take the SBAC exam at a time when many of them are taking the SAT or ACT college admission tests. As we work statewide and across the country to improve the use of standardized tests, the legislature took another big step forward this year by allowing schools to replace the SBAC test with a free SAT test for all high school juniors.

## VARIABLE ELECTRIC RATES

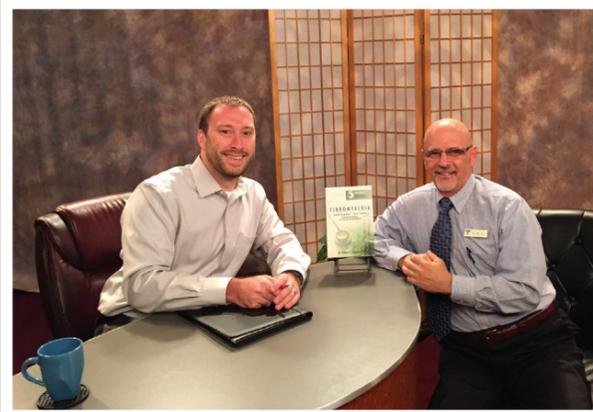
This year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to protect residents from electricity providers who offer a low introductory rate that increases rapidly afterwards. The protections enacted require competitive electric suppliers to give their customers a 60-day notice before the end of their contracts. Suppliers cannot charge these customers a termination or early cancellation fee and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do so within 72 hours. We also set up a process for the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to further investigate and take measures to completely eliminate variable electric rates when a customer's contract expires.



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## BIG NEWS IN COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Student loan debt is an issue that impacts many Connecticut families. Sixty-four percent of college graduates in our state have student loan debt. This year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to create a Student Loan Bill of Rights, which establishes an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman. This office will regulate student loan servicers, compile data on borrower complaints, develop a financial literacy education course for students, and will help student borrowers and their parents navigate the loan process.

In addition, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) took historic steps toward increasing college affordability by announcing that it will offer its lowest fixed interest rate yet at 4.95%, down from its current rate of 6.75%. This rate is also significantly lower than the Federal PLUS loan rate of 6.84%.

### TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR AND ENFIELD STATE AID FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

	East Windsor	Enfield
Education Cost Sharing	\$5,810,543	\$29,195,835
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$118,146	\$1,301,831
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	-----	\$27,107
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$48,442	\$1,449,946
School Transportation	\$107,511	\$473,694
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$78,232	\$320,305
Town Aid Roads	\$267,394	\$534,951
Adult Education	\$16,355	\$95,077
Grants for Municipal Projects	\$295,024	\$256,875
MRSA-Additional Sales Tax Revenue	\$334,616	\$1,312,766
<b>Total State Funds to Our Towns</b>	<b>\$7,076,263</b>	<b>\$34,968,387</b>

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