



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROLAND LEMAR

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Lemar
www.facebook.com/StateRepRolandLemar

Dear Neighbor:

With the extreme sadness of the Newtown tragedy weighing on everyone, the 2013 legislative session was one of the most trying, but also rewarding sessions I've experienced.

Our focus at the beginning of the legislative session was on the development of the strongest gun laws in the nation. Our comprehensive response also strengthened school safety and improved access to mental health care.

My colleagues and I also delivered on other top priorities including a balanced budget that does not raise taxes and helps municipalities hold the line on property taxes while protecting investments in education, job growth and consumer protection.

Because budget sequestration cut federal spending and because new technologies can change the way we live and work, we reactivated the economic development advisory commission that will work to modernize the state's manufacturing base. The renamed Commission on Connecticut's Future will determine how to diversify the state's defense businesses or help them switch to making consumer products, and ensure that the state's colleges and universities are preparing students for jobs in the manufacturing sector.

We also extended consumer protection laws to prohibit price gouging during severe weather events. If a business charges an excessive price during any severe weather event, it will be committing an unfair trade practice and will be subject to state consumer laws.

In addition, we passed legislation that helps homeowners get the help they need when financial hardship threatens and they're facing foreclosure. We also offered a helping hand to our neighbors in East Haven whose homes were devastated by Superstorm Sandy.

I hope this report is informative, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have about issues facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future for all of our families and communities.

Sincerely,

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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SERVING NEW HAVEN/EAST HAVEN | 96TH DISTRICT



CAPITOL NEWS
2013

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SERVING NEW HAVEN/EAST HAVEN | 96TH DISTRICT

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME:

Capitol Phone: 800-842-1902

Email: Roland.Lemar@cga.ct.gov

www.facebook.com/StateRepRolandLemar



A BALANCED BUDGET

Despite the difficulties surrounding our biennial budget, I am proud to have increased funding for New Haven and East Haven. I was committed to preserving the safety net while trying to stabilize property taxes and I was able to accomplish both these goals.

STATE DOLLARS FOR NEW HAVEN FISCAL YEAR 2014 (POPULATION 129,000)

Education Cost Sharing	\$150,438,559
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$5,338,632
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$38,569,077
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$7,406,443
School Transportation	\$1,894,745
Non-public school transportation	\$200,621
Priority School Districts	\$6,165,985
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,724,309
Town Aid Road	\$1,248,685
Adult Education	\$2,937,473
DECD Tax Abatement	\$150,665
MRSA Payments	\$1,287,658
Vocational Agriculture	\$1,022,914
Total State Funds	\$218,385,766
Total State Funds in 2013	\$212,028,478
Increased Funding From Fiscal Year 2013	\$6,357,288

STATE DOLLARS FOR EAST HAVEN FISCAL YEAR 2014 (POPULATION: 29,000)

Education Cost Sharing	\$19,665,083
PILOT: State Owner Property	\$351,644
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$166,042
School Transportation	\$246,433
Non-public school transportation	\$43,063
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$222,964
Town Aid Roads	\$404,419
Adult Education	\$492,370
MRSA Payments	\$40,912
Total State Funds	\$21,632,930
Total State Funds in 2013	\$21,229,057
Increased Funding From Fiscal Year 2013	\$403,873

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/STAR SUPPLY

I am happy to report that the Connecticut General Assembly was able to secure over \$10 million in loans and grants to seven communities to remediate a select few brownfield locations throughout Connecticut. In New Haven, the project to rehab the old Star Supply site in East Rock is getting a boost. The state approved a \$1.7 million loan for the planned mixed-use development that will include approximately 200 homes.



Rep. Lemar and other elected officials at the Alexion expansion ground breaking ceremony in New Haven

and by supporting small businesses and start-up hubs like New Haven's The Grid. There are also measures for job training, incentives for businesses that move to Connecticut from overseas, and more opportunities for veterans returning from active duty. Both the House and the Senate unanimously supported a bill to encourage Connecticut manufacturers to recruit, hire, and train apprentices, preparing Connecticut's workforce for manufacturing jobs. We also increased our investment in the Small Business Express program, which provides loans and matching grants.

TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

I am committed to fighting for better transparency in the state government and proud to have led a successful debate on the House Floor in favor of legislation to provide true transparency and clarity for our constituents on where their money is spent and what the businesses that receive our tax dollars are doing to grow jobs. The proposal was passed in the House, but unfortunately was not taken up by the Senate. It is my intention to have this bill reintroduced next year.



JOB GROWTH

The legislature continued to focus on job creation by increasing funding for higher education and new businesses in the science and technology sectors

SAFER ROADS

This session we passed a number of laws that will make our roads safer. One of them that I am particularly happy to see increases the penalty for failure to remove ice or snow from a motor vehicle. Fines will start at \$75



Rep. Lemar testifying against the proposed rate hike for the CT Transit in New Haven

and increase if property damage results. No one likes commuting during our New England winters and especially when you're driving into snow drifts created by other cars on the road.

We also continued to focus on distracted driving. With this new law we will be able to crack down on distracted driving and increase fines for using a hand-held cell phone or other electronic device while behind the wheel. We will

also benefit from the creation of a task force to study prevention of distracted driving.

CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL DIRT BIKES

I am particularly proud to have co-sponsored, along with other members of the New Haven legislative delegation, legislation which responds to nuisance and safety complaints related to dirt bikes, ATVs and snowmobiles. We increased the penalties on the riders who speed through our streets, parks and sidewalks. Fines are now:

1. \$1,000 for the first violation,
2. \$1,500 for the second violation, and
3. \$2,000 for subsequent violations.



MINIMUM WAGE

Over 16,000 households in East Haven and New Haven have a minimum wage earner. Twenty percent of all minimum wage earners are female head of households, many times supporting their family on less than \$19,000 a year. I co-sponsored the new law raising the minimum fair wage over two years. We will raise the minimum wage to \$8.70 per hour, effective January 1, 2014 and \$9.00 effective January 1, 2015.