

Dear Neighbor,

This year, we created a state budget that focused on preserving city and town budgets, increasing public education funding, and investing in transportation. Most people will see reductions in their car taxes and most municipalities will see increased funding through property tax reforms.

The new state budget created a long-term transportation plan and made critical investments in our highways, buses, and railways statewide. These improvements to our aging infrastructure will help grow our economy.

We aim to remain economically competitive with neighboring states by growing and supporting our business community. This year, we did this by continuing to fund a public education system and universities that produce highly skilled workers, and by keeping property taxes for businesses in check. Over the last few years, through the Small Business Express program and economic development grants, we have provided millions in funding to help retain and attract businesses.

I also wanted to let you know about some great news regarding recent job growth in Connecticut. Employers added more than 8,000 jobs in the months of May and June alone, and more than 26,000 jobs in the last year. Our unemployment rate has dropped to the lowest point in 7 years, and our labor force has grown to its largest size in almost 4 decades!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions by calling 800-842-8267 or emailing Roland.Lemar@cga.ct.gov.

All the best



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROLAND LEMAR

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TAX RELIEF, PROTECTING CRITICAL SERVICES, AND INVESTING IN CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE

TAX RELIEF

- Increased state aid for New Haven by over \$16 million in 2017 as compared to 2015
- Car owners will see a significant reduction in the car tax beginning in 2016. Car taxes will be lowered by \$3,647,678 for our City's residents
- Military veterans' retirement pay will now be 100% exempt from the state income tax
- Only corporations with out-of-state profits and the top 2% of tax payers (couples making more than \$500,000 per year) will be asked to pay a little bit more

INVESTING IN OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

- Reducing traffic and encouraging economic growth by replacing and repairing aging roads and bridges, and making generational investments in bus, rail, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Keeping taxes low for growing industries like data processing and computer services, and continuing the Research and Development tax credits

CRITICAL FUNDING PROTECTED

- Protects essential funding that middle class families rely on, including for schools, libraries, before- and after-school programs, job training, mental health and developmental services

GREAT JOB GROWTH NEWS

- Private sector employers in Connecticut added more than 6,000 jobs in May and 2,600 in June
- Over the last year, those employers have added more than 26,000 jobs
- The unemployment rate has dropped to 5.7% - the lowest point in 7 years
- At almost 2,000,000 workers, Connecticut's labor force is as large as it has been for almost 40 years