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*Dear Neighbor,*

I am honored to again be representing you at the state capitol. I wanted to inform you of some of the things I'll be working on during this legislative session.

Making our schools and our state safer and balancing our budget will be top priorities. As always I urge you to contact me with your questions, concerns, and comments by email at [Philip.Miller@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Philip.Miller@cga.ct.gov) or by phone at 860-842-8267. Your input helps me keep working for you and for a better Connecticut.

All the Best,



Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Capitol: 800-842-8267

[www.housedems.ct.gov/MillerPJ](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/MillerPJ)

State Representative

# Philip J. Miller

Representing Chester, Deep River, Essex, Haddam  
36<sup>th</sup> House District



State Representative  
**Philip J. Miller**

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## Responding to Tragedy

Everyone is thinking of Sandy Hook and what it means to our future. Already, I have received hundreds of emails, calls, and letters from people of Haddam, Chester, Deep River, and Essex, and I have met with a large number of constituents. Many feel that the second amendment is uncertain enough to be so widely interpreted. Citizens generally do not begrudge the right to have a weapon with which to defend home and family, and many feel that the military alone should have capacity magazines. Some people I've spoken with want existing laws strengthened before embarking on new restrictions. Owners feel that they are disciplined enough to keep all arms secured when not in hand. The legislative session is a long process where bills are proposed, discussed with the public, changed, voted on, amended and then submitted for the Governor's approval. Dozens of submitted bills will be evaluated and discussed at great length, and what might be voted on in the spring could be adjusted from what is being considered now.

## The State Budget

Almost two years ago, we closed a three and a half billion dollar shortfall by raising taxes, reaching concession with our state employees, and enacting significant cuts. At present, we must cut spending by another six hundred million dollars plus to avoid a tax hike, and this reality is prompting ideas which are fearful to those who could be affected. There is a continuing need to make our agencies more efficient, and while some have been, we must improve.



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## GMO Labeling

I am trying to pass new legislation requiring the labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOS) in our food supply. 62 Countries already require this labeling, and it is important that we provide the same protections to our citizens. These unnatural substances are private property and therefore can't be adequately studied. For many consumers, the thought that big agribusiness would promote anything which might not be in our best interests is difficult to fathom. I'd like these substances in products labeled, so that as consumers, we may empower our economy by making educated choices.

## Who's Your Farmer?

It is suggested that we should know where our food comes from to have true food security. Connecticut agriculture is a positive growth industry, and it is in our best interest that we should grow and buy more. Only one percent of what we eat is grown here in Connecticut, and our target is five percent. While this still may seem modest, it is a conscious shift to having the very best quality. Higganum has a great farmers market on Friday afternoons from the spring through fall, and their special indoor Thanksgiving and Christmas markets are popular. The Sunday morning Chester farmers market is an anticipated weekly event, and the new Ivoryton Saturday morning market has a bright future.

Throughout Connecticut, and even locally, former agricultural land is being put back into production, and we are seeing a growth in community supported agriculture (CSA), like Wellstone Farm in Higganum, with some sixty plus local families as subscribers. In Chester, the Local Beet is providing the best in homegrown goodness, and many restaurants such as the Whistlestop in Deep River and Gabrielle's in Centerbrook feature local foods for those in the know. Local growers like Scott's and Halfinger Farms turn diligence and stewardship into the best produce.

The Haddam-Killingworth and Chester-Deep River-Essex school systems have evolved food programs, and this empowers learning. Recently, the Region 4 Director of Food Services, Thomas Peterlik, and Jonathan Rapp of the River Tavern in Chester, were cited by the legislature for the partnerships they've built with local growers and for integrating a wellness approach in school fare, a worthwhile effort!

With all these amazing food producers and farmers in our area, why not shop local!



## Let's Keep In Touch

Sign Up For Email Updates:  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/MillerPJ](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/MillerPJ)