

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PHILIP J. MILLER

PROUDLY SERVING THE 36TH DISTRICT,
CHESTER, DEEP RIVER, ESSEX, HADDAM

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 2014 session was no different. This year we needed to encourage economic growth, help working families, and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget (without raising taxes) took a lot of hard work, but I am happy to report to you that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals.

Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend pre-school. We also made additional investments in job creation programs such as Step Up, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed, and will help our economy grow.

Recognizing the struggle of many working families, we raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017. By helping thousands of minimum wage earners, hundreds of millions of dollars will pour into our state's economy and help businesses grow and flourish.

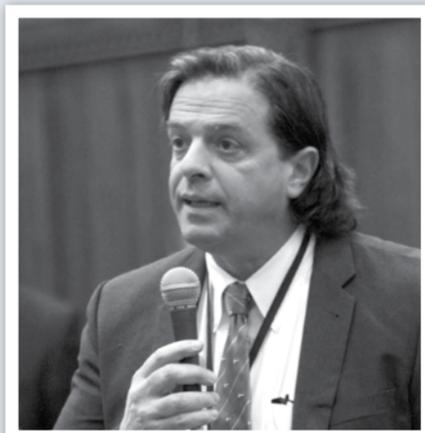
I am honored and privileged to serve the citizens of Haddam, Chester, Deep River, and Essex. It is a beautiful region of our state of Connecticut that we call home.

I am especially grateful to hundreds of people of our lower Connecticut River towns who have spoken with me recently, sharing ideas and concerns, and contributing thoughtful advocacy and optimism. When we work together, we accomplish for Connecticut.

Sincerely,



State Representative,
Philip J. Miller



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PHILIP J. MILLER
CHESTER, DEEP RIVER, ESSEX, HADDAM
www.housedems.ct.gov/MillerPJ



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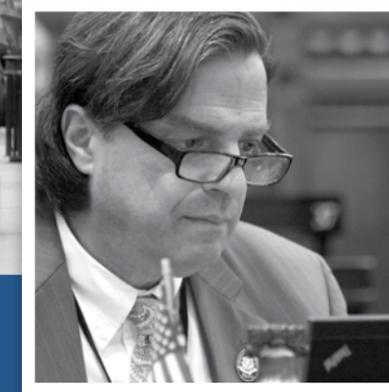
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2014 NEWSLETTER

This year's legislative goals for our state were to encourage economic growth, help working families, invest in our young people, protect our vulnerable citizens, and to adopt a balanced budget with no new taxes. New laws were passed this Spring to directly address these concerns, including establishing an Office of Early Childhood Education, a long sought goal, and enhancing consumer protection when dealing with utility companies by creating measures to reduce unnecessary tree trimming and protect people from alternative energy supply rate fraud.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

I am continuing with my assignment to chair the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council. We have oversight of all behavioral health services serving more than 600,000 Medicaid recipients. Building on legislation passed last year, we were able to help increase access to mental health services for those on Medicaid.

2014 FARMERS MARKETS

Agriculture is a growing industry in our state, as more people are realizing the cultural and health benefits of locally produced foods and products. We have come to see that many of us consume too many prepared and processed foods with questionable nutrition. Our seasonal farmers markets let us sample terrific nutritional and tasty food. We have three great markets locally: Higganum on Friday afternoons, Ivoryton center on Saturday mornings, and Chester on Sunday mornings.

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WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

This session, I was given a special assignment: to help design a new water plan for our state. To accomplish this goal we met with stakeholders, including citizens, sportsmen, watershed councils, water providers, and state and federal officials. Connecticut is now better positioned for conservation efforts, as we balance public water supply needs with economic, recreational, and ecological needs, and we should better identify changes to laws and regulations necessary to implement these plans.



THE PRESERVE

Another long-sought conservation goal is being realized, with the hopeful preservation in perpetuity of the Thousand Acre Preserve. Many citizens of Essex and neighboring Old Saybrook have been involved in this campaign for fifteen years or more.

As part of this plan, we added a new land registry to the 2012 Open Space Plan, designed to keep state properties dedicated to conservation and recreational purposes.

Through brownfield remediation grants we are restoring polluted lands to economic function. Our state has a long industrial history which has left us with many areas in need of remediation. The convened Brownfield Working Group has compiled dozens of practical protocols, especially for lands acquired by municipalities where hazardous building materials are moved and abated.



FRACKING

The emergent hydraulic fracturing techniques have enabled us to increase access to mined shale gas reserves from Pennsylvania and New York. Due to the risks the trucking of chemicals and byproducts associated with this process can pose to our environment, many in our state demanded that the volatile and toxic waste product be recycled and developed in the mined areas, and not in Connecticut. We now have a three-year moratorium period to study if there is even a relevant use for this excess waste. In the meantime, our roadways, rivers, and communities will be protected from the hazardous waste.

CAPITOL UPDATE 2014



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