

UTC IN CONNECTICUT

Connecticut has a proud tradition in the aerospace manufacturing industry. This year we cemented this tradition by working with United Technologies Corp. (UTC) to make Connecticut their home for years to come. UTC has committed to upgrade and expand its current facilities and to invest in research and development. This agreement will bring high paying jobs to Connecticut and lower the property tax burden in our communities. It will not only maintain UTC jobs, but will positively impact all of the small businesses that serve as direct suppliers to UTC. In addition, science and engineering graduates will be able to find exciting work right here in Connecticut.



TRIMMING UTILITIES' TREE TRIMMING PRACTICES

Our tree-lined streets are part of what make Wethersfield unique. We passed legislation to curb the heavy-handed tree trimming by utilities. It's good news for Wethersfield property owners who will now be notified of any plans to cut or prune on their property, and given the chance to appeal.



ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION

When you renovate an older building, surprises are part of the package. Unfortunately, surprises in construction cost money. Fortunately, working with the Administration and my legislative colleagues, we were able to secure an additional \$10 million for this very important project.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RUSSELL MORIN
PROUDLY SERVING THE 28TH DISTRICT | WETHERSFIELD

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RUSSELL MORIN
PROUDLY SERVING THE 28TH DISTRICT | WETHERSFIELD



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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. The need to encourage economic growth, help working families, and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state, was clear.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new 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.

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.

Thank you,

Russell G. Morin

Rep. Russ Morin



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CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

HELPING SENIORS REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES

Most seniors would prefer to live in their own homes for as long as possible. We have taken steps to help make this happen. This year we created a \$6 million grant program for home modifications and assistive technology that will allow people to remain in their homes longer.

The program is open to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at risk of being unable to live independently without the modifications. We also required the Commission on Aging to recognize communities that are implementing livable community initiatives, which include affordable and accessible housing, community and social services, planning and zoning regulations, walkability, and transportation-related infrastructure.

TRANSPARENCY IN NURSING HOME OPERATIONS

Publicly funded nursing homes must be held to high standards, both in the care they provide to their vulnerable residents and in the accountable spending of tax dollars. Medicaid payments to nursing homes account for a significant amount (over \$3 billion) of our biennial budget. Taxpayer-supported, for-profit nursing homes will now be required to be more open about their financial relationships.

INCREASING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

One critical way to improve the mental health system in this state is to increase access to mental health services. Individuals will now be able to receive mental health services in locations outside of licensed clinics. The more convenient we can make it for sufferers of mental illness to receive care, the more likely they are to get the help they need.



*Comstock, Ferre & Co
Wethersfield, CT*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY

In 2013 we passed landmark school safety legislation. This year we added several new safety measures, including a study that will consider establishing a student safety hotline, a safe travel to school grant program, and we authorized \$22 million for another round of school security grants for additional security improvements.

PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sometimes offenders who commit domestic violence or other acts against their family or spouses retaliate financially when their victims request a restraining order. To help prevent this, courts may now grant financial orders as part of the civil restraining order process. This change would permit the courts, among other things, to order the offender to maintain utilities and insurance for their victims. We also increased the penalty for criminal violation of restraining orders, protective orders, and standing criminal protective orders involving such actions as threatening, harassing, and assault from a class D to a class C felony.

PROTECTING DISABLED ADULTS

We need to protect disabled residents from working with those that have a history of abusive behavior towards the disabled. We strengthened the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) protections against abuse and neglect by creating a process for investigating claims of abuse for those with autism spectrum disorder. We also expanded DDS's abuse and neglect registry definition of abuse to include financial exploitation and psychological, verbal, and sexual abuse. The registry provides a safeguard and prevents employees terminated for abuse or neglect from working with persons with intellectual disabilities or other persons who may be at increased risk of abuse.



*Rep. Morin with National Champions JETS
Team (Junior Engineering Technical Society)*

HELPING OUR VETS FIND JOBS AND HOUSING



*Rep. Russ Morin with Rep. Tony
Guerrera discussing legislation*

The Veterans' Opportunity Pilot Program will utilize specialists in veterans' employment and homelessness to assist nonprofit agencies secure work and housing for our vets. The Department of Labor will manage a statewide network of employment services for veterans and utilize federal grants to lower the number of homeless veterans in CT. In addition, veterans can now apply their military training toward occupational licenses, including public safety positions and a variety of trades. College credits can be awarded for specialty training and apprenticeship credits applied to specific trades.

ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

Connecticut's three deep-water ports have long been neglected and underutilized. This year we established a Connecticut Port Authority to improve our ports - increasing trade throughout our state, growing our maritime economy with newly created jobs, and reducing the strain and congestion on our roads and bridges. The Port Authority will take advantage of Connecticut's unique geographic position to offer niche services for freight shipping across the eastern U.S., and serve as an alternative New York and Boston. This quasi-public agency will be fully operational in October 2015 and will promote commerce and thoughtful development along our major coastal cities.



Wethersfield, CT

