



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

We all struggled through the last legislative session to build a biennial budget that meets the acute needs of our most vulnerable citizens, protects essential public assets such as libraries and parks and still makes the critical investments necessary to create jobs, attract innovation and grow Connecticut's economy for everyone's benefit.

After analyzing the data and studying the thoughtful feedback I received from so many of you, I voted "No" on the final budget as presented – one of only eleven Democrats to do so. I continue to fight for a more holistic approach to budgeting that truly addresses our ever-changing needs and also stimulates sustained economic growth. Pursuing one goal without the other puts our future in jeopardy.

Despite our often tumultuous budget debates, we came together last session to adopt important legislation that:

- ◇ Assists Seniors and Veterans
- ◇ Moves to Lower Energy Costs
- ◇ Protects the Environment & Long Island Sound
- ◇ Reduces State Employee costs by cancelling overtime and reducing workers compensation expenses

There were many other achievements as well and I hope you find this newsletter helpful in highlighting some of our new laws and policies. So many of you communicated often with me last session. I thank you for sharing your fears and frustrations, advice and counsel. I plan to hold even more office hours in the months ahead. I am easy to reach and always eager to hear from you.

Warmest Regards,

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
 HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
 CALL ME: 800-842-8267
 LONNIE.REED@CGA.CT.GOV
 WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/REED



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
LONNIE REED
 PROUDLY SERVING THE 102ND HOUSE DISTRICT | BRANFORD

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 HARTFORD, CT
 Permit No. 3937



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Lonnie
Reed
 CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **LONNIE REED**

PROUDLY SERVING THE 102ND DISTRICT | BRANFORD

BLUE PLAN

As Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Long Island Sound Caucus, I have worked for years with Scientific, Academic, Environmental, Boating, Fishing, Aquaculture and Energy advocates to adopt a Blue Plan for Long Island Sound that maps all of its assets and vulnerabilities and gives us state-of-the-art tools to better protect and preserve our multi-billion dollar treasure. It all finally came together this session and passed both houses unanimously.



CELEBRATING THOSE MEETING CRITICAL NEEDS



I was honored to present a State Proclamation to Team Totokett and the First Congregational Church of Branford for twenty years of providing a week of summer camp fun to deserving kids from the Greater New Haven area at no cost to their families.

PUTTING THE ELECTRIC RATEPAYER FIRST

As Chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, I co-wrote and led the debate to win passage of several bipartisan bills designed to protect electric ratepayers. We banned the residential variable rate because some devious third-party suppliers were luring consumers with low teaser rates that suddenly skyrocketed to budget-busting heights. Senior citizens were especially vulnerable.



Rep. Reed with Voices for Branford Seniors.

CREATING SOLAR ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

I led House passage of two bills designed to make Solar Energy available to more Connecticut residents than ever before. The new Solar Home Renewable Energy Credit (SHREC) provides incentives for another forty thousand homes.



Hartford Business Journal

The new Community Solar Act fast tracks pilot programs that will permit neighbors to share solar facilities. Shared facilities will save consumers money and open up solar to apartment and condominium residents, and to homeowners with shady roofs.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING | HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CALL ME: 800-842-8267 | WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/REED

FIGHTING FOR BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I co-introduced landmark legislation to mandate a fair share of state funding for Branford Schools. We were able to secure a bit more Education Cost Sharing (ECS) money for our town in a tough budget year, but next session we are bringing back this ECS bill. It directs the state to pay at least fifty percent of a town's cost per student. Right now, Branford receives only a third. Our student population is diverse and eager to achieve.



Students from Branford High School Model Congress

FEEDING BRANFORD KIDS

One in four Branford students now qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program. Johanne Pantani created a Feed the Kids Backpack plan for vulnerable elementary students. Kids can take home a food-filled backpack that gives them healthy meals for Saturday and Sunday. Community support is amazing. To donate, call or email Branford Food Pantry: 203-481-3663; office@branfordfoodpantry.org.



Testifying on the ECS Bill



HELPING ALL OUR KIDS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL