



Dear Neighbor:

The 2013 session of the General Assembly was a very unusual one and the budget was once again a major issue. We balanced the budget with no new taxes and finished the year with a surplus that we placed in our “rainy day” fund. This newsletter reports on the budget and issues surrounding it like our defeat of the proposed Energy Auction. I also highlight a number of other successes from our 2013 legislative session.

In this report you will find information on our efforts to curb storm-related price gouging, our push to protect seniors and our ongoing investments in the economy and job growth. I am also happy to note that a recent report by state comptroller Kevin Lembo show the state’s economy and revenues are improving.

- Employment has grown 17,800 private sector jobs.
- Housing permits showed a strong gain early in this calendar year.
- Retail sales are up.
- The stock market, a leading economic indicator with particular influence to Connecticut, is again on the rise.

I hope you find this newsletter informative. Please contact me anytime if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN RYAN

PROUDLY SERVING BOZRAH | MONTVILLE | NORWICH | 139TH DISTRICT




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CAPITOL NEWS 2013

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KEVIN RYAN

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Kevin and Sen. Maynard addressing an audience at the Capitol.



Kevin presenting his MORE commission work at a press conference.

CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY

JOB GROWTH

Both the House and the Senate unanimously supported the passage of a bill to encourage Connecticut manufacturers to recruit, hire and train apprentices, preparing Connecticut's workforce for manufacturing jobs in the future. This legislation increases the hourly tax credit - per apprentice - and as part of a coordinated approach with the state's public schools, colleges, and private sector companies will ensure a well trained, experienced workforce.

STOPPING PRICE GOUGING DURING SEVERE WEATHER

When catastrophic weather events hit our state, it is important that people have access to the goods and services they depend on. This law ensures reasonable pricing during a severe weather emergency. During one of these events, no one can sell or offer to sell a good or service for an "unconscionably excessive price."

M.O.R.E. COMMISSION

I had the opportunity to serve as chairman of the Board of Education Functions Sub-Committee, as part of the Municipal Opportunities & Regional Efficiencies (M.O.R.E.) Commission, composed of elected officials and members of the public.

This bipartisan working group sought to realize savings in public school education while making Connecticut more economically competitive. Our work focused on transportation, common calendar, taxes, and minimum budget requirements. We will use our group's recommendations moving forward to address the large expenses associated with education and continue to meet, with the goal of improving the quality and effectiveness of our state's public education system.

PROTECTING OUR SENIORS

AGING IN PLACE

Connecticut's model of "Aging in Place" is now law. Keeping our seniors in their homes is paramount to their well-being and saves money. The state will establish partnerships with municipal leaders to encourage collaborative efforts for long-term care planning.



If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

State Representative
Kevin Ryan

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STATE AID TO THE 139TH DISTRICT FISCAL YEARS 14-15

BOZRAH

Total State Funds to Bozrah	\$1,633,408
Total State Funds to Bozrah in 2013	\$1,542,242
Increase Funding From 2013-2014/15	\$91,116

MONTVILLE

Total State Funds to Montville	\$16,941,933
Total State Funds to Montville in 2013	\$16,681,561
Increase Funding From 2013-2014/15	\$260,372

NORWICH

Total State Funds to Norwich	\$41,467,508
Total State Funds to Norwich in 2013	\$40,316,456
Increase Funding From 2013-2014/15	\$1,151,052

REMOVING THE ENERGY AUCTION

After hearing from so many of you regarding the proposed energy auction, which would have sold off standard offer electric customers, I became a leader in the fight to remove it from the budget. Connecticut energy costs are already too high, and this one-time revenue gain would have pushed those costs even higher.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM

We increased our investment in the Small Business Express program, which provides loans and matching grants to businesses with 100 or fewer employees. More funding means continued success for this program that has helped many small businesses in the state create jobs. Bozrah, Montville and Norwich have received \$1.3 million directly benefitting over a dozen companies in the 139th District.

BRINGING YOUR STATE TAX DOLLARS HOME

Despite the difficulties surrounding our biennial budget, I am proud to have not only maintained, but increased funding for our towns. I was committed to preserving the safety net our community depends on while keeping taxes stable. I was able to accomplish both these goals.

A BALANCED BUDGET

Cities and towns across Connecticut are increasingly hard-pressed to generate resources necessary to support essential public services and educational systems. **This year's budget raises the state's investments in our towns by \$1.5 million over the next two years.** Without this state aid, our towns would not be able to maintain their services or stabilize property taxes.

This 2013-2014 budget passed by the General Assembly:

- Includes major investment in science and technology at the University of Connecticut
- Provides funding for the landmark public education reforms passed in 2012
- Continues Economic Development Programs
- Maintains aid to cities and towns



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