



Rep. Urban and Whit Davis of Davis Farms, at the Denison Farmers' Market.

Preserving Farms and Agriculture

I supported the Community Investment Act because farmlands in our town and across the state have benefitted from it. Protecting farmlands and expanding farm businesses not only creates jobs, but preserves Connecticut's quality of life.

The Community Investment Act:

- Establishes a matching grant program for towns to help farmers promote their farms
- Creates the "Connecticut Farm Link Program," a database that links buyers with farmers wanting to sell their operations or farmland
- Encourages the sale of Connecticut grown products.

We should continue to focus on our own local agriculture. The average distance that food travels from farm to plate is 1500 miles. For food safety and security we need to support our local farmers and farmer's markets!

Stonington Farmers' Market Currently Open

The market is now open indoors:

Stonington Community Center, 28 Cutler Street, Stonington

A winter market runs every Saturday, 10am to 1pm from November 20 to April 30.

And don't forget to watch for these markets next season:

Mystic/Denison Farmers' Market, 120 Pequotsepus Rd., Mystic

North Stonington Farmers' Market at Shunock River Farm, 476 Norwich Westerly Road, North Stonington

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State Representative

Diana Urban

Proudly Serving North Stonington and Stonington | 43rd District

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Dear Neighbor,

The economy has yet to truly recover and I realize that there are hard working families that are barely making ends meet. I have focused on government accountability, job creation, working on reforming the Department of Children and Families, and continuing to push Results-Based Accountability (RBA) to identify programs that are not working. It is critical that we use taxpayer's dollars more efficiently and productively.

The Governor signed into law PA 11-109, *An Act Requiring An Annual Results Based Accountability Report Card Evaluating State Policies And Programs Impacting Children*, that gives the Children's Committee, of which I am the Co-Chair, the responsibility for looking at the efficacy of the \$5.6 billion we spend on child and family welfare.

In addition, as Co-Chair of the RBA Sub Committee of Appropriations, we will be evaluating programs that are related to job creation to find which ones are actually creating jobs and giving us a positive return on our investment.

As always I am glad to answer questions or to help you in any way I can.

Sincerely,

State Representative

Diana Urban

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Protecting Our Children

In partnership with the new Commissioner, Joette Katz, the Children's Committee was able to make significant progress in reforming our Department of Children and Families (DCF). Working together we successfully passed 12 bills into law, all of which help the Commissioner make DCF more productive. These new laws:

- Tackle the problem of too few foster homes by eliminating archaic age requirements for child placement and the requirement that a child have a separate bedroom when placed with a relative
- Make it mandatory that when the police arrest a 16 or 17 year old for prostitution, the arresting officer reports to DCF which can conduct a child abuse investigation. Sadly, this is because of the depth of the adolescent sex trafficking problem
- Bring together community members to address the problem of Youth Violence in a RBA Working Group format
- Fund a pilot truancy clinic that is showing great success at keeping kids in school saving \$60,000 a year
- Give the DCF Commissioner access to pertinent information on clients to share with the families caring for them and enable her to reorganize the entire Department



Rep. Urban and her rescue dog, Indiana Jones, watch as Governor Malloy signs Public Act 11-194: **An Act Concerning Cross-Reporting of Child Abuse And Animal Cruelty.**

Two other initiatives are the first in the country:

One breaks down the silos between DCF and the Department of Agriculture by requiring them to cross report incidences of child abuse and animal cruelty through mandatory sharing of information. This policy recognizes the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence. When someone abuses an animal research indicates there is an 80 percent chance of child abuse as well.

And a major new policy mandates an annual RBA report card to evaluate- using data driven analysis- which programs are working and which are not. The state spends \$5.6 billion a year on the welfare of children and families. The report due annually in January will “follow the money”.

The Jobless Recovery

I know that there is a lot of frustration about jobs and although the pundits tell you the economy is in recovery a jobless recovery is not a recovery. In fact the words “jobless recovery” are really an oxymoron. The only segment of the economy recovering is the top 1 percent, the middle class is being bled dry.

The RBA jobs initiative of the Sub Committee I Co-Chair with Senator Bob Duff is in gear and evaluating programs across agencies that are directed at job creation. If a jobs program is not creating jobs or helping people thru education and training to get a job, then the resources will go to a program that does work.

I have long championed the small business owner with segmented loan pools, a law to have any new regulation checked for its impact on small business and support for entrepreneurs starting micro-enterprises. The job generator is small business, we all recognize that and small businesses needs help. I will be hosting a forum in district on using the internet to reach out beyond your front door to generate new business and I hope to see many of you there. I hope to partner with our local Chambers of Commerce and get the word out to you soon.

Getting Our Fiscal House In Order

Although we still have major structural deficit problems with our budget we are finally starting the journey to “truing up the books” by converting to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). We have been using modified accrual or cash accounting which allows the state to push costs into the next fiscal year and count revenues before they are received (it would be illegal if you did it).

I have introduced bills over and over to get the state to convert to GAAP but it took Governor Malloy's Executive Order to cut through and get it done. This will finally allow us to have transparency in the budget process.



Rep. Urban and intern, Lori Fogler-Nicholson, working in the House Chamber.



Rep. Urban and Senator Maynard walking the wetlands at the Davis farm with Whit Davis and DEP officials. Photo courtesy of Chris Chrissos.

Preserving Connecticut

The quality of our environment affects everyone, everyday, so this year the legislature responded with efforts to remove toxic materials from Connecticut's environment, assure proper disposal and recycling to protect our health, and preserve open space.

Eliminating Toxic BPA

We have already banned the chemical BPA from infant formula and baby food containers. Now we have moved to eliminate BPA from cash register receipt paper. BPA exposure is linked to various illnesses and ailments including:

- Prostate cancer
- Breast cancer
- Obesity
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Hyperactivity Disorder
- Disruption in reproduction and fertility (including damage to fetus)

Old Cans of Paint

We've taken another step toward removing toxins from our environment with a new environmentally sound, cost effective “paint stewardship” program for the management of old paint. When buying paint, consumers will receive information about where to dispose of it, including procedures for collecting, storing, transporting, reusing and recycling.

Speed Limits for Boats on Mystic River

To increase public safety on the Mystic River, boaters are now prohibited from operating their vessels in excess of 6 mph in slow-no-wake zones on two specific portions of the river. “Slow no wake” means a boat must not produce more than a minimum wake and must not attain speeds greater than six miles per hour.