



### Local Businesses Win State Job Grants

Small businesses in Glastonbury, Manchester and Marlborough have all benefited from the Jobs Bill we passed in October, receiving more than \$200,000 in combined state funding to create new jobs and expand the local economy. Meanwhile, another 500 firms have also applied for state aid. Connecticut is truly open for business!



### Storm Response

In response to the two devastating storms that struck Connecticut last year, I voted for reforms that will better prepare us for future storms and minimize utility outages. The terrible response from Connecticut's utility companies was a wake-up call; now we've instituted minimum staffing requirements, tree-trimming standards and better coordination between municipal, regional and utility officials.



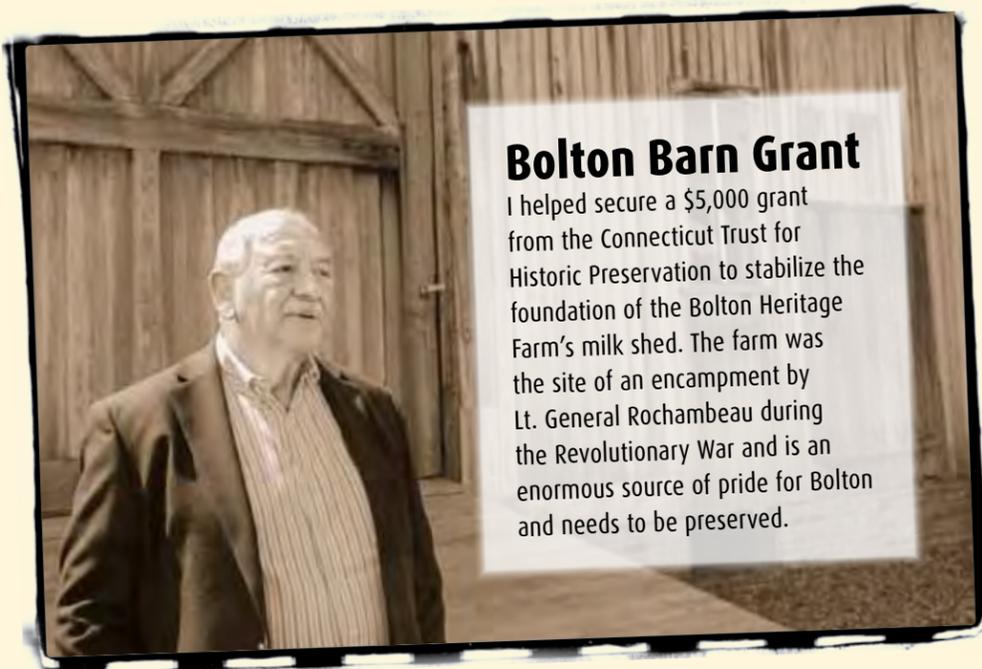
### Farmland Grants

I've been informing farmers in the region of a new and little-known state grant that offers millions of dollars to restore and preserve valuable farmland. The new Farmland Restoration Program was approved on a bipartisan basis last October, and up to 250 state farmers could receive grants of up to \$20,000.



### Police Chief Award

I was proud to receive a 2011 Legislator of the Year award from the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association for my work allowing police officers to move from one department to another while undergoing new background checks. It's important that while police officers make these moves, police chiefs ensure the integrity of their force.

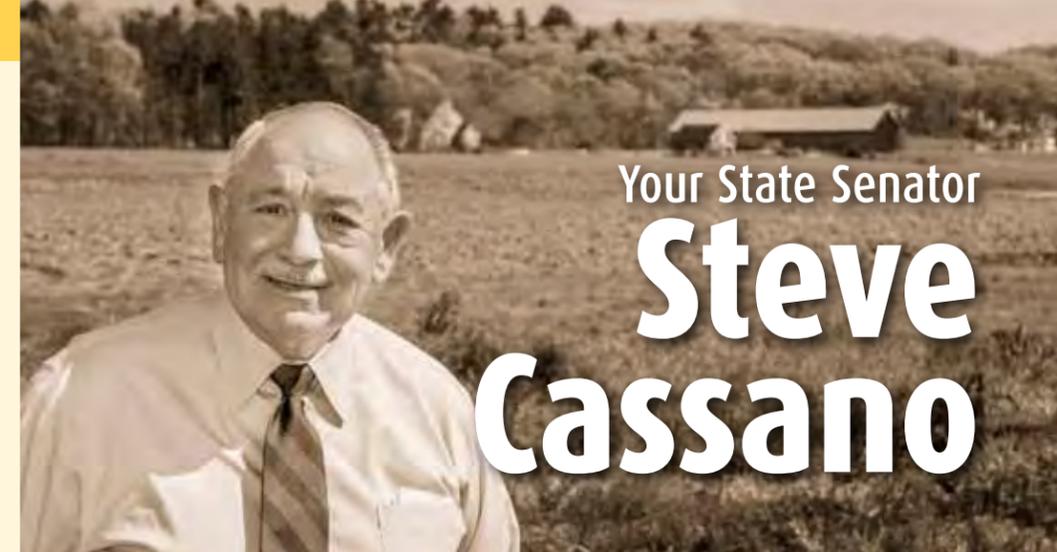


### Bolton Barn Grant

I helped secure a \$5,000 grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation to stabilize the foundation of the Bolton Heritage Farm's milk shed. The farm was the site of an encampment by Lt. General Rochambeau during the Revolutionary War and is an enormous source of pride for Bolton and needs to be preserved.



I had the honor of introducing Mallory Kievman of Manchester at the Capitol on the opening day of the legislative session. Mallory, age 13, is a young Connecticut entrepreneur who has invented the "Hiccipop," a lollipop which contains three ingredients that overstimulate the nerves that cause hiccups, thereby stopping them. Mallory has obtained a patent for her product, began production this spring and plans to bring it to market later this year.



Your State Senator  
**Steve Cassano**

Representing the residents of  
**Bolton, Glastonbury, Manchester & Marlborough**

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I want to hear from you!  
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# Your State Senator Steve Cassano

## Resources

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed an historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs and contact info that could benefit you or someone you know.

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org)
- ▶ **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org), or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or [michelle.lugo@ct.gov](mailto:michelle.lugo@ct.gov)
- ▶ **STEP Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or [rina.bakalar@ct.gov](mailto:rina.bakalar@ct.gov)
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP)
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: [www.ctjobandcareer.org](http://www.ctjobandcareer.org)

To learn more, visit: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs)



## Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass an historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and ensures high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- ▶ Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- ▶ 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- ▶ Kindergarten through third-grade reading programs
- ▶ Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- ▶ Increased funding for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- ▶ A fair and validated evaluation system that will help teachers improve
- ▶ Additional funding to school districts across the state



## JOBS

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- ▶ Extending incentives to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- ▶ Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP-Up Program;
- ▶ A 'Connecticut Made' marketing campaign that advertises and markets locally made products;
- ▶ And a stronger "First Five" business incentive program that gives preference to companies that move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.

A COMMITMENT TO  
CREATING

## Protecting Consumers, Fighting Price Gouging



Last year we saw some of the worst of what Mother Nature has to offer. Record-breaking snowfall and a powerful tropical storm wreaked havoc, causing downed trees, power outages and roof collapses. We came together as a state to clean up and repair homes after the storms.

In the Senate, we crafted legislation that extends protections from price-gouging to emergency lodging and weather-related services such as snow removal, flood abatement, clean-up and repairs.

The package we passed in the Senate went even further by protecting people against:

- ▶ Unnecessary collection of Social Security numbers;
- ▶ Deceptive automatic renewal language buried in the fine print of introductory offers; and,
- ▶ Telemarketers giving false or misleading identifying information.

Though not all of these bills passed in the House, they are important issues that the General Assembly should remain focused on next year.

## Relief at the Pump

This session I helped pass a comprehensive plan that caps the gross receipts tax by applying it to only the first \$3 a gallon when gas is sold on the wholesale market. The plan also strengthens protections against price gouging, cracks down on oil profiteering, and requires that savings from the cap get passed along to consumers.

We can't affect the price of oil on the international exchange—but we can give our Dept. of Consumer Protection and Attorney General tools to ensure large oil wholesalers don't take advantage of rising prices to unfairly gouge consumers.

