

HELPFUL RESOURCES

FROM SENATOR TERRY GERRATANA

JOB RESOURCES

▶ CTWORKS CAREER CENTERS

A regional Career Center is located in New Britain to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. 860-827-6200

▶ CTJOBCENTRAL

An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information. 1-866-268-6206 or www.jobcentral.org/ct



Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

State Senator

Terry Gerratana

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
www.SenatorGerratana.ct.gov
860-240-0584

ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

▶ SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Choose Your Electric Supplier—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by 10 percent. 1-877-947-3873 or www.ctenergyinfo.com

Home Energy Solutions—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-877-947-3873

Helping With Payments—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828



CONSUMER PROTECTION

▶ MAKING THE “DO NOT CALL” LIST STRONGER

Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the “No Sales Solicitation Calls” statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed last year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222 or the state Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649.



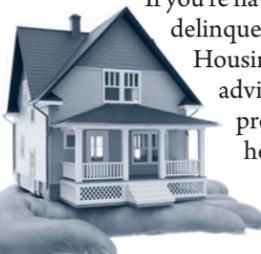
RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

▶ FREE ADVICE ON FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

The Homeownership Preservation Foundation’s Homeowner’s HOPE Hotline provides free foreclosure-prevention advice from HUD-approved counselors. Speak to a counselor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 1-888-995-HOPE

▶ THE FIRST STEP IN CONNECTICUT

If you’re having trouble paying your mortgage, or are facing delinquency or foreclosure, contact one of Connecticut’s Housing Counseling Agencies. Each agency is prepared to give advice, screen your eligibility for potential assistance programs and offer other resources to help you keep your home. Call Neighborhood Housing Services of New Britain at 860-224-2433.



Dear Neighbor:

This past legislative session was a very fruitful and busy one for our state government. We worked on and passed major legislation affecting the future economic growth in the Central Connecticut Region as well as our state. When I took office I vowed to do as much as possible to create jobs, both in the short- and long-term, and to promote and boost our state’s economy.

This newsletter outlines some of the initiatives we’ve taken to improve both our economic well-being as well as our quality of life in Connecticut. I hope it will be useful to you and I appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,

Terry Gerratana
State Senator

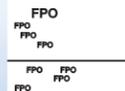
Stay Informed in a “Green” Way



Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It’s a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit: www.SenatorGerratana.ct.gov



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WINTER 2011



STATE SENATOR Terry Gerratana

Serving Berlin, Farmington & New Britain

Investing in the Future of Medicine

As America's population ages, health care is becoming more important—not only for personal care, but in the economic sector as well. That's why we are renovating and expanding the UConn Health Center campus in Farmington. Over the next few decades, this project will create at least 16,000 high-quality jobs, attract millions of dollars in federal funding and improve access to health care for families across Connecticut. From a new patient tower and cancer center to bioscience research, the UConn Health Center is on track to become a regional economic and research powerhouse.



Speaking at a news conference at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington announcing the Bioscience Connecticut plan.

Fighting Against Domestic Violence

This year we passed a domestic violence law that strengthens a victim's access to restraining and protective orders, improves information sharing about domestic violence incidents and expands the ability of victims who have experienced a pattern of threatening or stalking to request a restraining order. We also fixed a contradiction in state law that exempted people who are dating from arrest when a domestic violence crime is committed. Connecticut is making it easier for victims to protect themselves and making it harder for perpetrators to commit such crimes.

Insuring MRIs to Fight Breast Cancer



With members of the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative at the Berlin Fair.

We've stepped-up the fight against breast cancer by passing a law requiring certain insurance companies to pay for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for breast cancer screening when a woman has what's called 'dense' breast tissue. A typical mammogram may not reliably detect breast cancer tumors in

such tissue. The new law also requires MRI coverage if a woman is at increased risk for breast cancer due to family or personal history.

GROWING JOBS

Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work and get our economy growing again. Unlike the partisan gridlock in Washington, both parties came together in Hartford to pass a Jobs Bill of common-sense improvements. We focused on small businesses, **cut the business entity tax in half** and **streamlined state regulations**. Other highlights of the bill include:



Discussing jobs and the state's economic future with David Roche, president of The Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council, and Peter Reilly, president of The Greater Hartford-New Britain Building Trades Council.

- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—We established a monthly hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers. We also made it easier for businesses to hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- ▶ **Investing in start-ups**—At a time when many banks aren't lending, we invested in new start-up companies by building business incubators and expanding the angel investor tax credit.
- ▶ **Building a workforce for the future**—We will recruit students for vo-tech, agri-science and tech education by promoting their benefits with middle school parents and local boards of education. We'll also establish manufacturing technology programs at three community colleges.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—We paved the way for economic development zones at Connecticut's general aviation airports, allocated funds for shovel-ready bridge projects and passed major reforms to lower energy costs and increase energy efficiency.



In separate legislation, we rebuilt the UConn Health Center, attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratory to build a \$1.1 billion research facility nearby. This will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

The national economy remains tough, but we took big steps this year to get Connecticut growing again.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for **Berlin, Farmington and New Britain**.

Securing state bonding for local improvements is a vital part of my public service. I'm proud to have played a role in obtaining:

- ▶ School construction funds for additions, renovations and improvements to the **DiLoreto Magnet School** in New Britain. This grant saves taxpayers 80 percent of the \$10 million cost of the project, which will add 29,000 square feet of classroom space, a new gymnasium, and music and art rooms.
- ▶ Renovations to the 100-year-old **New Britain YWCA**. The project will relocate the entrance, create a bus drop-off area and expand program space.
- ▶ **Berlin** has received a state **Brownfield Development Grant** to remediate and redevelop 889 Farmington Avenue, demolishing the property, removing hazardous materials and preparing the site for development around the train station and future police station.



Learning From Two Extreme Storms

Connecticut was hit hard with two extreme storms nine weeks apart. In both instances hundreds of thousands of households lost power, most for several days, and many for more than a week. The large number of lengthy outages across the state, primarily in CL&P coverage areas, has led to many questions about this utility's ability to prepare for and manage these drastic situations.

CL&P is now under heavy scrutiny and action will be taken by



the legislature to address their failure. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials based on their experiences. We crafted their ideas into recommendations that have now been shared with the governor's Two Storm Panel.

Residents Should Report Storm Losses

Many people were affected by the October Nor'easter. CL&P has set up a \$30 million fund to assist residential customers who were out of power for 7 days or longer. CL&P has begun accepting applications. To find out if you qualify for a credit of between \$100 and \$200, contact CL&P at **1-888-566-9257** or visit **www.cl-p.com**. All applications must be received by January 31, 2012. Credits will be applied to February's billing statement.

