

REPRESENTING NEW HAVEN, HAMDEN & NORTH HAVEN

STATE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Martin M. Looney

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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State Senate Majority Leader
Martin M. Looney

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-0375 or 1-800-842-1420

www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov



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New Haven Biofuel Company Growing Jobs Thanks to Recent Legislation

I recently stopped by the Port of New Haven to talk with Greenleaf Biofuels Founder and COO Gus Kellog about how the state's STEP-Up and Small Business Express grant and loan programs helped the company hire and train 15 new employees. The STEP-Up and Small Business Express programs are the result of legislation I helped to pass in recent years.

Creating Healthier Communities



Connecticut is stepping up its efforts to promote access to fresh, local, affordable healthy foods. Through the Farm Viability Grant program, the state is partnering with New Haven Farms and City Seed to fight obesity and other diet-related illnesses by providing New Haven residents with locally grown fruits and vegetables resulting in improved health outcomes for children and families.

Connecting Seniors with Services

There are many helpful resources, programs and services available for seniors living in Connecticut, but often they are not aware of them. That's why I recently held a senior fair at the Atwater Senior Center to connect folks with local service providers and agencies intended to benefit senior citizens. Highlights from this year's events included information on medical, dental, behavioral health and social service programs, counseling about federal and state veterans' benefits, and information on energy assistance, weatherization and home energy supports.



Cracking Down on Illegal Dirt Bike Riding

Illegal dirt bike riding has become more than a nuisance—these riders create unsafe conditions for pedestrians and motorists and decrease the quality of life for residents. Dirt bikes and ATVs are simply incompatible with most other activities in densely populated communities, and their use is a public safety hazard for riders and bystanders alike. That's why I co-sponsored legislation to increase penalties for illegal dirt bike riding to act as a deterrent to the irresponsible use of these machines.

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Committed to Economic Recovery

At the beginning of the global economic recession, Connecticut economists predicted a very slow recovery. At the State Capitol, we took action. During the last three legislative sessions and the 2011 October Special Session on Jobs, we passed historic, bipartisan, job-creating bills.

We launched and then expanded programs to help thousands of small and medium-size businesses. For example, the **STEP-Up** and **Small Business Express** programs—which so far have assisted nearly 850 firms to create or preserve almost 12,000 jobs—offer job-training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and state grants for small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we have created more than 41,000 private-sector jobs since 2011. But our work is not done.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov.
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: www.stepct.com
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- ▶ **Job & Career ConnecTion** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more about job growth in Connecticut, visit:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Phoenix Press President Brian Driscoll shows me the operations of this New Haven printer that grew its business thanks to our Small Business Express and STEP-Up programs.

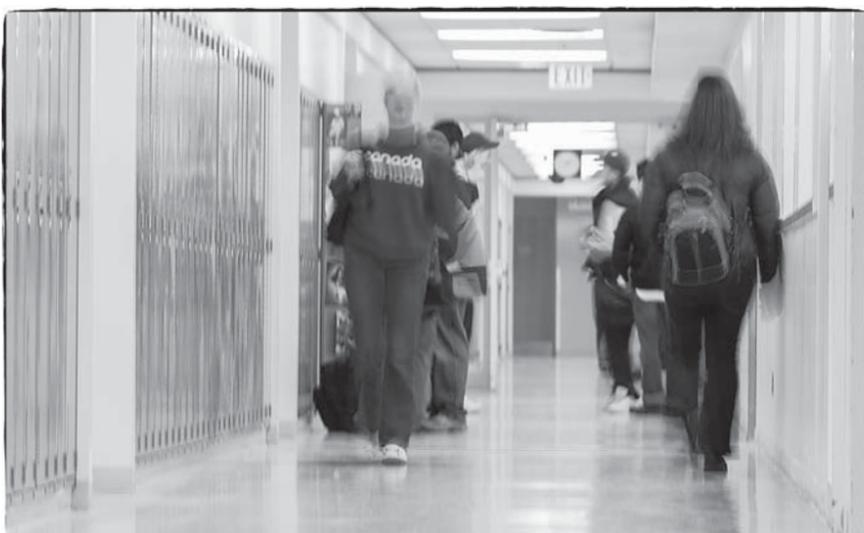


Talking seafood and job creation with Bobby McNeil, owner of #1 Fish Market on State Street in Hamden. Bobby was able to make new hires thanks to the Small Business Express program.

Children's Mental Health

Following the Newtown tragedy, Democrats and Republicans came together to improve Connecticut's mental health-care system, with a particular focus on the well-being of children.

The new law implements a strong, comprehensive, integrated system of care. It identifies strategies for reducing the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children. It promotes early identification and intervention and ensures access to developmentally appropriate services to help treat children earlier. It also created a Children's Mental Health Task Force to study the effects of nutrition, genetics and medication on our youngsters.



Support for Local Businesses

Locally, many businesses in New Haven, Hamden and North Haven are using important programs like STEP-Up and Small Business Express to preserve and create jobs.

New Haven: Space Craft Manufacturing, AB Employer Solutions, Mutual Housing Association of Southern Connecticut, Bartron Medical Imaging, Believe In Me Empowerment Corp., MEA Mobile New Haven, Green Life Guide, Globele Energy, Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, EleMar New England Marble & Granite, Gelato Giuliani, Greenleaf Biofuels, See Click Fix, Nova Tract Surgical, Christopher Martins, Track 180 Digital Media, Café Romeo

Hamden: The Smart Start Preschool and Learning Center, Derie Currie Insurance Agency, Carrot Patch Daycare, Taylor Freezer of Connecticut, Diversified Technology Consultants

North Haven: Fuller Installations, New Haven Central Hospital for Veterinary Medicine, Brock Enterprises, Brownstone Construction, Klein Laboratories, Worldcom International, Flight Support Inc., Performance Logistics

Stamping Out Price Gouging



In light of recent severe hurricanes and historic snowstorms that have battered Connecticut, members of the public have been vulnerable to price gouging by shady service providers for snow removal, flood abatement, roof raking and lodging. That is why we expanded consumer protections by prohibiting price gouging for services that are essential for the health, safety and welfare of consumers in the aftermath of severe storms. This expanded law will be a deterrent to exploitative business owners and will protect consumers from predatory practices.

For more information about how to report price gougers, contact the **Department of Consumer Protection** at 860-713-6300 or visit www.ct.gov/dcp.