

Utility Infrastructure

Support legislation that addresses the need to upgrade the State's electricity transmission infrastructure.

Support legislation that spurs investment in the communications industry by equalizing regulations among providers and stimulating investment in high-tech infrastructure.

Support enacting regulatory and tax policies to encourage private-sector investment in, and management of, broadband infrastructure and services.

Oppose policies that restrict the ability of broadband providers to manage their networks. While well intentioned, these harm broadband availability, restrict the development of next-generation broadband networks, and raise consumer prices.

General Government Services/Support

Support incentive legislation that motivates municipal governments to form partnerships that provide programs and services in the most cost effective manner (e.g., capital funding and operating expenses for regionalized 911 systems with a combined population in excess of 100,000).

Support legislation that promotes the development of diversified and affordable housing, encourages the elimination of part-time health districts and makes the interim statistical re-evaluation optional.

Support legislation that requires the state to divest itself of all surplus state owned property or to maintain said property in full compliance with all applicable state and local codes.

Education

Support incentive legislation that provides capital funding and operating expenses, in an amount equal to the rate of funding currently received by distressed communities, to communities that partner with a distressed community on new school construction projects.

Health Care

Support accessible health care for all State residents, providing the cost does not impact the cost of conducting business in the State.

Support making health care quality and comparative data more available to consumers.

Performance-Based Budgeting

Support Performance-Based Budgeting legislation to be used as a tool for allocating public resources so as to encourage efficiencies in State government.

Support new legislation that would reward efforts that minimize waste and encourage efficiency.

*“We are a collaborative of
business & community
leaders dedicated to securing
and enhancing the economic
vitality of eastern Connecticut.”*



Legislative Goals 2009

Manufacturing

Support legislation that provides tax incentives and fiscal policies to support and grow the State’s manufacturing base.

Support legislation that allow manufacturers and other businesses to form consortiums to purchase employee benefit insurance in bulk through the Chamber of Commerce Network.

Oppose legislation that would increase manufacturing costs.

Transportation/Congestion

Support the Transportation Strategic Investment Action Plan for Connecticut (2003-2023); expansion of I-95 from Branford to Rhode Island; completion of Route 11; improvements to Routes 2, 2A, 32.

Support the continuation of funding to ensure full compliance of FAA Certificate 139 for Groton/New London Airport.

Support funding for a pilot study to determine the feasibility of providing free public transportation to senior citizens.

Support legislation that requires DOT to partner with the private sector for the design, construction and management of major transportation networks, with the proviso that these networks be returned to the public sector after a return on investment is realized.

Support fast-tracking development of a regional transportation center in New London. A feasibility study is currently underway to recommend ways of improving the link between the various transportation providers and the city center district.

Support funding to conduct a feasibility study to expand the railroad bed between Mystic and

New Haven and look at other innovative ways to improve our transportation infrastructure.

Tourism

Support Regional Governmental Affairs initiatives to fund tourism as presented by the Eastern Regional Tourism District, Mystic Coast and Country, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, including:

- Increasing the advertising budget for the Division of Tourism to support statewide and regional marketing efforts.
- Opposing any increase in the hotel room occupancy tax rate, as well as any legislation that conveys authority to levy a tax to any entity other than to the State. Both initiatives are repressive and would be injurious to the statewide lodging industry.
- Requiring the Department of Revenue Services to report occupancy tax collections monthly by district/region.
- Funding to keep New London as a port-of-call for cruise ships.
- Supporting the cluster initiative for the Tourism Alliance and any public/private partnership that may form as a result.
- Support the funding for strategically placed public restroom facilities to further develop the region as a tourist attraction.

Workplace Costs

Oppose legislation or regulation that increases corporate and unemployment taxes or attempts to overturn workers’ compensation reforms.

Oppose business-unfriendly legislation such as “Captive Audience.”

Governors Commission for Economic Diversification of SECT

Support legislative proposals and rule changes required to fully enact the proposals outlined in this document.

Support the appointment of a member of the Subbase Realignment Coalition to the Military Affairs Committee to help grow the links between the business community and the military/homeland security community in eastern Connecticut, as well as improve the quality of life for military families in the region.

Expansion of the Bottle Law

Support comprehensive, best-practices, trash/recycling initiative, rather than expanding the existing bottle bill to include plastic water bottles.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)

Support the continuation of the State’s Incumbent Worker Training Program funding at the current \$500,000 for each of the fiscal years 09/10 and 10/11 as part of the bi-annual budget.