

Dear Neighbor:

The 2015 Legislative Session will wrap up on Wednesday, June 3rd so the month of May will be a very busy time at our State Capitol. We will be voting on hundreds of bills and amendments, including our budget for fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. As always, if you have any questions about any pending legislation or have any suggestions for me please do not hesitate to contact me at matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov or 860-240-8585.

The City of Hartford will also be adopting its budget this Spring with a final vote of the Court of Common Council likely to come sometime in late May. As a former member of the Hartford City Council, I know what a difficult task our City leaders have trying to finalize their budget. One priority of mine as a State Legislator is to ensure that we preserve funding for Hartford and for our school system. If the State makes drastic cuts to municipal aid, it will simply lead to a higher property tax rate for our residents.

I will also be pushing very hard for bills that will reform our State's broken taxation system, including bills that will change the PILOT formula and the car tax. I have said this 1,000 times and it is still true: a Honda Civic in Hartford should be taxed the same as a Honda Civic in Windsor. Yet, Hartford residents pay almost double in car taxes than residents in our neighboring towns. 2015 may finally be the year that we do something about this blatant inequity.

Be sure your voice is heard both locally and at the Capitol this time of year. A lot happens that impacts all of our lives and some of the best bills I have pushed for came from the recommendation of a constituent.