From the House
Small Business Express Program Helps Businesses Grow

By State Representative Matt Ritter

With National Small Business Week taking place in May, it is a great time to highlight Connecticut's Small Business Express Program (EXP).

The program was created in 2011 as part of a bipartisan jobs bill that I was proud to support, and has proven to be effective in assisting Connecticut's small business community. Offered through the Department of Economic and Community Development, EXP provides loans and grants to small businesses. To be eligible, businesses must employ less than 100 people and have been established for at least one year.

The program recently passed a new milestone in its efforts to help small businesses grow. Governor Malloy announced in March that the program has helped more than 1,500 Connecticut companies, helping create and retain over 22,000 jobs since its creation.

Hartford architectural firm JCJ Architecture is one recent beneficiary of the program. The company is moving to an expanded space at the old Colt manufacturing complex, funded in part by a grant from EXP.

The program is designed for a wide range of companies, from small mom-and-pop shops to companies in target industries such as manufacturing and finance.

Small businesses are an essential part of our economy, and I am glad that we have this program to support economic growth through our neighborhood entrepreneurs.

If you have any interest or questions regarding this program please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-240-8500 or matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov.