

Dear Friends,

During this legislative session my colleagues and I will be working diligently to address the high cost of energy that burdens residents as well as companies doing business in our state. In order to do this correctly we must carefully examine conservation efforts, alternative fuel options and our State's energy structure as a whole.

As we work to find a solution this legislative session, I encourage you to take part in the process by voicing your concerns at a public hearing. If you still have questions regarding this process after reading this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In this newsletter I have also included information on energy programs that you may be able to benefit from this winter. Please remember that energy conservation also helps to save money.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve all of you in the 41st district in Groton. I can always be reached at 1-800-842-8267 in my Hartford office.

Have a safe winter season.

*Elissa*



LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**ELISSA WRIGHT**  
41st District



**Legislative Session  
Preview  
2007**

*Representing Groton*

## Energy Assistance

- ▶ **Private Fuel Banks** - Many towns have private fuel banks that provide winter energy assistance to local residents who do not qualify. For more information, call 2-1-1 Infoline and ask for the location of the fuel bank nearest you.
- ▶ **Utility Arrearage Forgiveness Programs** - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies offer assistance programs that can help customers pay a portion of their back utility bills. Contact your utility company or your local community action agency at (860) 425-6681.
- ▶ **Weatherization Assistance Program** - You may be eligible for free assistance in weatherizing your home or apartment. Measures may include installing storm windows, insulation of your attic and/or walls, and servicing of your heating system. Call 1-800-842-1132 for additional information.
- ▶ **Winter Protection Program** - Participants in this program will be coded by their utility companies as "hardship cases" and will not have their utility service shut off between November 1 and April 15 of each year. For more information, contact your utility companies.
- ▶ **Connecticut Energy Assistance Program** and the **Contingency Heating Assistance Program** - These programs are for residents who may need help with the costs of home heating bills and energy use. For further information and referral to an application site in Groton call 2-1-1.

## Energy Efficiency

The state offers programs and specialized loans to help citizens improve the energy efficiency of everything from light bulbs to heaters and insulation remodeling. One program that offers discounted products can be found at:

[www.energyfederation.org/smartliving/default.php/](http://www.energyfederation.org/smartliving/default.php/)



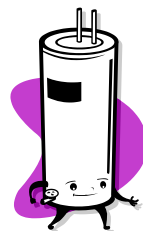
CL&P customers can also visit:  
[www.cl-p.com/clmres/indexclmres.asp](http://www.cl-p.com/clmres/indexclmres.asp)

### Energy Product Tax Holiday

You can also take advantage of the Energy Product Tax Holiday and pay no sales tax on approved purchases. This tax incentive lasts until June 30, 2007 and applies to the following items:

- Programmable thermostats
- Window film
- Caulking
- Window and door weather strips
- Insulation
- Water heater blankets
- Water heaters
- Ground-based heat pumps
- Oil furnaces that are not less than 85% efficient

These other items are also exempted if they meet the Energy Star standard:



- Boilers
- Natural gas furnaces
- Propane furnaces
- Windows
- Doors

## Making Your Voice Heard

If there is a specific issue or legislation that you would like to advocate for or against, one place where you can do this most effectively is in a public hearing. Our committees often have public hearings where you can speak out and deliver testimony to the committee members. One person's testimony can make the difference on how a proposed bill is viewed.

Most public hearings are held in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. For information on when the hearings take place, please visit [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov) and read the Bulletin or click on a particular committee's link. Make sure that the bill that you wish to speak about is on the committee's agenda for that day.



If you decide to come testify, remember to bring copies of your prepared remarks for committee members to read. You must sign up to speak at the hearing, and sign-ups usually start one hour before the hearing begins.

I am confident you will find the process interesting, and you will gain insight into the importance of citizen involvement.

I serve as a member on these legislative committees:

- Finance Revenue and Bonding
- Judiciary
- Environment