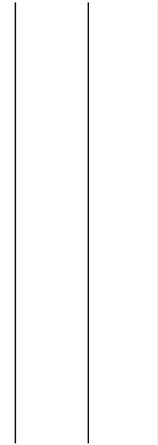


**CONGRESSMAN CHRIS MURPHY**

114 West Main St. Suite 206  
New Britain, CT 06051

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Chris speaks with Waterbury residents about new grants to retrofit old factories for new businesses.

**If you would like more information about these or any other issues, please contact my office.**



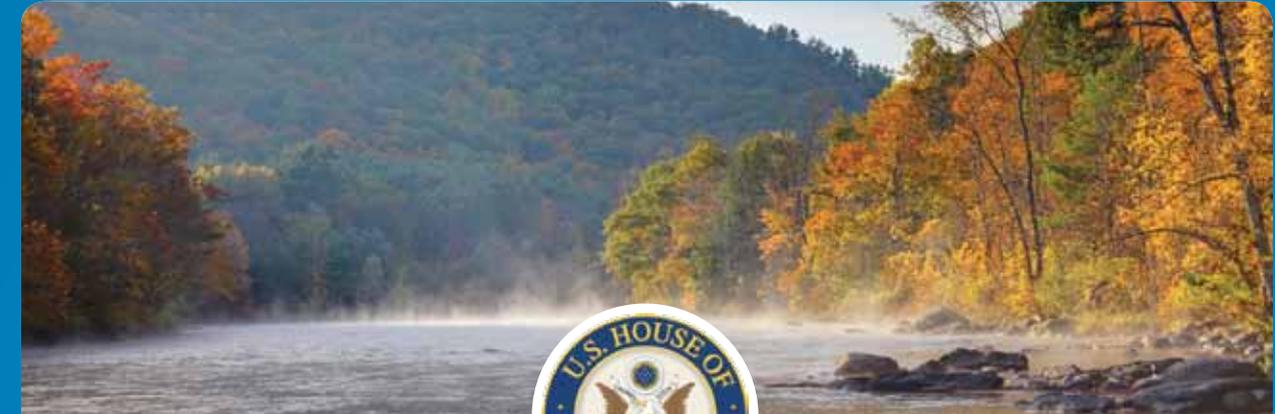
**Call:** Connecticut office: (860) 223-8412  
Washington office: (202) 225-4476



**Email Congressman Murphy from:**  
[www.chrismurphy.house.gov](http://www.chrismurphy.house.gov)



**Write:** 114 West Main St. Suite 206  
New Britain, CT 06051



# YEAR END UPDATE FOR 2011

## CONGRESSMAN CHRIS MURPHY



Chris hears from the owner of the New Morning Store in Woodbury about ways to create jobs.



Chris tours areas damaged by the October snowstorm with Senator Blumenthal.



# “Here’s an update for 2011 on my priorities for Connecticut.”

— CONGRESSMAN CHRIS MURPHY

Too often, end of year newsletters like this are just full of the highlights and successes of Congress. I don’t want to fall into that pattern of only sharing news when it’s good news. I’m proud to have fought for the issues that matter most to Connecticut, but there were disappointments as well. You should hear about it all – the good, the bad, and the ugly. Most importantly, I want to hear from you, so please keep your emails, phone calls and letters coming.

**↔** **Creating jobs and helping Connecticut recover** – This year, we have seen a small drop in unemployment – but there is still much work to be done. Congress considered the legislation I wrote – “The American Jobs Matter Act” (HR 1354) – which would strengthen our ‘Buy American’ laws and help rebuild manufacturing in Connecticut, but the House failed to pass it.

**↑** **Holding Wall Street accountable** – Last year Congress passed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (HR 4173) which cracks down on the kind of reckless behavior that caused the financial crisis. This Act also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which starting this past July now has full enforcement authority to protect the interests of consumers.

**↑** **Protecting Social Security and Medicare** – One of the best pieces of news to report this year is that the new majority’s proposal to end Medicare as we know it (H.Con. Res. 34) was defeated and benefits have not been cut! Benefits were not cut for either Social Security or Medicare this year.

**↓** **Campaign finance reform** – I strongly believe there is too much special interest money in politics. Unfortunately, Congress has failed to address this massive problem, but I’m continuing to push for common sense reforms.

**↑** **Moving to a high-tech economy** – Congress’ investment in commuter rail for Connecticut will pay off big for our state – with 8,000 new jobs, new commuter trains for Meriden, and a more high-tech economy for the future as we link up New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, MA by rail. And the tax incentives for renewable energy companies to purchase equipment was a good step. Congress is also considering my proposal to help more fuel cells qualify for tax credits so our area can become a leader in high-skill job creation.

**↔** **Tax cuts for middle class families and small businesses** – Right now Congress is considering extending the payroll tax cut. I’m pushing hard for this tax relief because it will help middle class families and give over 72,000 small businesses the chance to expand and hire new workers. (For more information visit [WhiteHouse.gov](http://WhiteHouse.gov)).

**↑** **Making health care more affordable** – A year after the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590) became law, many benefits are just beginning to take effect. Over 2.5 million more young adults now have health care, and Medicare now offers free preventive and wellness benefits like annual exams, and screenings for diabetes and cancer.

**↑** **Honoring the sacrifice of our veterans** – This year we opened the new Danbury Vet Center, and increased the amount of affordable housing for veterans in the 5th District. When I heard that plaques were being stolen for scrap metal from local memorials and monuments, I took action – writing the Protect Veterans’ Memorials Act (HR 3636) which will mean tougher penalties to deter these disgraceful thefts.

## 2012 CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES SURVEY

**1** Which two of the following issues would you like to see Congress make its top priorities?

- Jobs and the economy
- Education and schools
- Immigration reform
- Renewable energy and climate change
- Taxes
- The budget deficit
- Terrorism and national security
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2** What do you think Congress should do to create jobs? (check all that apply)

- Strengthen ‘Buy American’ laws
- Reduce the budget deficit
- Cut income taxes
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Invest in renewable energy
- Cut the payroll tax
- Invest in high-speed rail

**3** Congress is currently debating extending the payroll tax cut for 2012. Do you:

- Support extending the payroll tax cut
- Oppose extending the payroll tax cut
- Not sure

**4** Would you like to receive occasional email updates – ‘Murph Mail’?

- Yes
- No
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