

November 7, 2009

Valley Breeze Letter To The Editor

From:

Edward J. O'Neill

RI State Senator – District 17 (Lincoln, North Providence, Pawtucket)

Details On Three Important Pieces of Legislation

As your State Senator from District 17 (Lincoln, North Providence, Pawtucket) I have worked with my colleagues in the Rhode Island Senate and with local officials who have played a key role in the recent passage of three important bills of local interest.

Since my election to the Senate, I have worked closely with Town Administrator Almond, Mayor Doyle and Mayor Lombardi as well as the citizens of each town, listening to their concerns and taking action.

Twin River

Working daily, I was in contact with Administrator Almond as well as the Governor's office and legislature to protect Lincoln's share of revenue from Twin River gaming operations. Legislation [S1060] , which was proposed by Senator Daniel Connors, Senate Majority Leader, and co-sponsored by myself, moved quickly through the Senate on the last day of the session.

This legislation restores Lincoln's share of the Video Lottery Terminals (VLT) payout to its rate prior to June 30 when the 24/3 legislation expired due to a sunset provision.

The bill was a delicate issue as it could have been misconstrued as a gift for the Town of Lincoln. However, the legislation restored what was previously in place. Senator Connors and I worked on both sides of the aisle to make sure this was understood. It was important for the House to see a strong Senate vote before they voted on it. As Majority Leader, Senator Connors was instrumental in the bill's passage through the General Assembly. He found a sponsor in the House and the bill survived. The bill was sent to Governor Carcieri on November 5th for his signature.

Twin River's bankruptcy continues to play out and close co-operation continues as we work proactively to protect the interests of Lincoln's taxpayers.

Indoor Prostitution

I co-sponsored Legislation [S 596], known as the Anti-Prostitution Bill, which outlaws indoor prostitution in Rhode Island. I worked with Senator Paul Jabour to see the bill to fruition. There was tremendous effort by Representative Joanne Giannini, Senator Jabour,

and the leadership in the House and Senate between June and the end of October to get this done. This legislation enables law enforcement to take action against prostitutes, johns and property owners who participate in the sex trade business.

This is a quality of life issue, and this legislation will allow residents to live peacefully without this blight in our neighborhoods. We expect some of these establishments will close voluntarily and the others will risk the enforcement of this legislation which was signed into law November 3.

Camp Meehan

During this legislative session, I introduced the Eminent Domain Bill [S 685] and was its primary sponsor as it became law, enabling the Town of North Providence to protect its last large parcel of open space. This bill was strongly supported by the town administration, the North Providence Environmental Council and North Providence Citizens for Open Space, Balanced Zoning and Development. The bill was opposed by local developers who had announced plans to build housing and an amusement area.

For more information, please visit my website at: www.senatoroneill.com or contact me by e-mail at: electedoneill@msn.com .

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