

and assistance to the states, towns, and local landowners on projects near the river. We encourage towns to consider our *Plan* and to incorporate its recommendations when updating town plans and revising zoning ordinances.

Citizens interested in representing the town should contact the selectmen. The subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. The public is welcome to join our meetings, on the second Tuesday evening of every other month at the Windsor Connection Resource Center. A calendar, advice on bank erosion and obtaining the necessary federal or state permits for work in or near the river, and a summary of the *Connecticut River Management Plan* are on the web at [www.crjc.org/localaction.htm](http://www.crjc.org/localaction.htm).

*Steve Halleran and Ted Moynihan, Plainfield representatives to the  
Mt. Ascutney Region Subcommittee*

**Senator Peter H. Burling  
District 5**

I am so pleased to serve you as your State Senator, and I write to report from the New Hampshire Senate on important state issues affecting you, as residents of Plainfield.

Last session, I concentrated on several key issues important to the citizens of New Hampshire: among them were expanding fuel assistance for citizens struggling with skyrocketing heating costs; improving access to affordable housing; healthcare and prescription access for New Hampshire individuals and children; strengthening state ethics laws; enhancing consumer protections for our residents, especially those who prey on the vulnerable citizens; strengthening protection for New Hampshire's children against sexual predators; safeguarding homeowner and landowner rights relating to Eminent Domain; and protecting privacy and voter protection rights for New Hampshire's residents. I have also fought to maintain state aid to towns.

In the upcoming year of the current biennium, the Town of Plainfield will receive \$1,399,938 in state education funding. Education grants made up \$1,360,186 of this total. The remaining balance of state aid consists of \$29,467 in building aid, and \$10,285 in special education aid.

In addition to these different forms of state aid for education, Plainfield will receive distribution of the \$86,261 from the Rooms and Meals Tax, as well as \$103,907 for Highway Block Grants, and \$30,039 for Revenue Sharing.

As a member of Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee, Transportation and Interstate Cooperation Committee, and Chairman of both Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee, and the Executive Departments and Administration Committee, I will be very busy. I would be happy to hear from you on any issues of concern you may have. This session, I will be concentrating on new issues important to the citizens of New Hampshire: like increasing the minimum wage, protecting New Hampshire citizen's health by supporting the smoking ban in restaurants and bars; increasing health care access and internet safety for children; protecting New Hampshire's special places and open spaces by increasing funding of the Land and Heritage Investment Program; supporting a permanent ban on the burning of construction and demolition debris; and supporting the Governor's initiative to reduce the dropout rate in our high schools.

If you wish to contact me about these or any other matters I might help you with, please call me at (603) 271-2642, or e-mail me at [peter.burling@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:peter.burling@leg.state.nh.us).

**Representative Matthew Houde Sullivan I**  
**Plainfield, Cornish and Grantham**

The 2007 legislative session is well underway. Much of December and January focused on orientation of new members – to the State House, the committees upon which Representatives serve, and Sullivan County. It was a thorough orientation, but I know that I will continue to learn more “on the job”.

2006 was a historic election year in New Hampshire, with changes not only to composition (Democratic majorities now exist in the House, the Senate and the Executive Council) but also to leadership (both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate are women).

While some things have changed, others have not. The Legislature will continue to deal with education funding, and, as you likely know, Governor Lynch has promised a veto of any broad based tax (such as an income tax or a sales tax). As a result, the property tax will remain the single largest tax on residents.

A brief note on education funding: in his Inaugural address, Governor Lynch called for a narrow constitutional amendment to allow targeted aid from donor towns to recipient towns. If passed, a constitutional amendment would allow for targeted aid among communities within the State (something the New Hampshire Supreme Court has previously ruled unconstitutional), but it would not address inequities within a town. However, I am aware of suggestions along these lines as well - urging the State to give more flexibility to towns to address intra-town inequities. I am eager to hear these proposals.

I have been assigned to the Commerce Committee, which deals with matters such as insurance, banking, securities, and business in New Hampshire. Public hearings have already been held on bills ranging from proposals to form a committee to study a single payer insurance system to proposals to require licensure of property and casualty appraisers. The Commerce Committee was one of the committees upon which I had asked to serve – not only because of the range of topics covered but also because of the impact this type of legislation has on both consumers and businesses in the State.

I have received several emails and phone calls from people in Plainfield, and I thank you for that. I encourage you to get in touch with me if you have questions or concerns. My email is [matthewhoude@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewhoude@yahoo.com), and my home phone is 469-3149. While the deadline has passed to introduce new bills in the House this session, I am always receptive to having conversations about proposed bills for next year’s session.

Matthew Houde  
Sullivan I  
Plainfield, Cornish and Grantham