

January 1, 2013

Hello All,

Here's wishing everybody a very happy and healthy New Year. I hope you have enjoyed the yearend holidays and are looking forward to the coming year. While there are always challenges in the future, there are also opportunities for growth, for working together for better community life and for enjoying our friends and families.

Soon the legislature will resume. We first meet on January 9 and we too will face challenges and opportunities. We will have to do all we can to make sure Vermonters can make progress towards their goals and to ensure a bright future for younger and future generations.

I have heard from a number of you about your concerns regarding choices we may be making in the coming year as reports and studies commissioned over the summer are just coming out and will be brought to the legislature in January for review. I greatly appreciate your comments. Here are just a few examples of what I've heard:

- Concern over how to best provide quality education and protect property tax payers. School boards are under a lot of pressure to provide the education we need to succeed as a community within limited budget choices. They have a very difficult job and deserve our best appreciation.
- The need to develop our workforce to grow our economy and support more and better jobs with better pay.
- Making sure we make the best choices in developing renewable energy and energy efficiency strategies.
- Ensuring safety in our communities.
- Making sure health care system changes really work for people.
- Making sure government services are provided fairly and affordably and making sure citizen's voices are fully considered in decision making.

The legislature will be looking at all these issues and many more. These aren't easy problems to solve but if we keep each other's situations in mind I think we will go forward in a fair and even handed way.

As in other years I will generally be driving to Montpelier late on Mondays and returning late on Fridays. I write my weekly Montpelier Notes over the weekend and if you have a community

announcement let me know so I can include it. Town meeting week in the beginning of March I will be home for the week. You can reach me through the contact information below. I check messages left on my home telephone during the week and you can also leave a message for me with the Sergeant at Arms. It is a toll free call in Vermont. Here's the number. 1-800-322-5616. I also check email frequently and either email address below works well. I will try to get back to you as soon as I can.

Here's wishing you and your family all the very best in the coming year. I look forward to hearing from you.

Stay in touch,

Bill

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