

WAXB FIRST QUARTER 2014

ISSUES AND PROGRAM LIST

Each program has a duration of 30 minutes

Each program aired on the date indicated from

0600 – 0630 hours

Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2014 Guests and Subject Matters

(January, February, March)

January 5th, 2014 - Peter Gioia - Connecticut Business and Industry Association Economist.

Subject Matter: On this show as we begin a new year Connecticut Business and Industry Association economist Peter Gioia talked about how Connecticut ended 2013 and the outlook for the year ahead. He says we ended 2013 with some momentum in that the unemployment rate was going lower and he sees that improving to the point where the state will add between 23 to 24-thousand jobs in 2014 ... and even better than that in 2015. Gioia feels Connecticut will add jobs in 2014 in several sectors: construction, manufacturing, financial services, leisure and hospitality, education, and health. Meanwhile the U.S. economy says Gioia is expanding at a moderate and sustainable pace. Gioia feels that will carry the Connecticut economy with it (with a little lag factor) through 2014. He told that Connecticut is really dependent on the U.S. economy as a whole being healthy. Gioia explained the reason why is because Connecticut has a lot of people who work in industries such as financial services and manufacturing who sell their goods and services around the country and around the world. He says when they do that they bring that wealth back into Connecticut. CBIA economist Gioia feels we are on an upward cycle where people around the world are going to need the Connecticut products and services which will circulate more wealth through the economy and back to Connecticut.

CBIA economist Peter Gioia is optimistic especially when it comes to energy issues. He says in the longer term the U.S. is on track to be energy independent. Gioia says that will ultimately be a game changer which will affect in a good way gasoline and heating oil. He says he is also optimistic about the housing market situation. The economist feels there will be a housing expansion. Gioia says interest rates are also low right now. Though he says the Federal Reserve could be raising interest rates which he feels will force a lot of people who are thinking about buying a house to actually make a commitment. Gioia says that will be beneficial. Meantime he says there's good news in other areas as well like

January 5th, 2014 - (Gioia continued) - in the manufacturing of durable goods. Gioia says for instance auto sales have been quite good. And Gioia also added that Wall Street has been doing extremely well ... and while 2014 may not repeat the great year of 2013 he expects it to continue to do well.

On the show CBIA economist Peter Gioia discussed a forum that they held on transportation. He says the ability to transport goods and services across Connecticut are of great concern to businesses. Gioia stated that CBIA has been critical of state budgets for not spending enough on transportation and the transportation infrastructure. He says that is absolutely vital to move the products, goods, and people who are involved in business. Gioia says they did a survey and a forum on transportation because they wanted to heighten the awareness of this. He says they had the Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey and Republican Senate leader John McKinney on hand to hear from businesses and their concerns about Connecticut's transportation problems and the need to upgrade the state's infrastructure. He feels by having this forum they did raise awareness on this because it's absolutely vital. Gioia says we know the problems we've had with the Metro-North rail line and with roads and bridges. Gioia says we really do need to take care of this because you have got to be able to move the people and the products. He says we are a heavily single car occupancy dependent and a heavily truck dependent state due to the fact that Connecticut is spread out more than other states that have one major hub like Boston or New York that's linked with mass transit. So he says it's a multi-faceted problem that needs several areas of solutions and CBIA wants to keep these on the radar screen.

CBIA economist Peter Gioia on the show was also asked about the state's minimum wage being increased from \$8.25 an hour to \$8.70 an hour on January 1st. He says while it is good that those workers will have more money in their pockets to put back into the Connecticut economy it is a big burden for Connecticut businesses. Gioia told that it is the worst possible time to ask businesses to bear this burden. He says some employers who can't afford it will probably have fewer employees or give workers fewer hours. Gioia says others might not replace someone when they leave ... and still other businesses might purchase equipment to automate a job that has been done by a human being.

January 12th, 2014 - Lynn Sosa - Deputy State Epidemiologist.

Subject Matter: On this edition of Dialogue Lynn Sosa, Deputy State Epidemiologist, discussed what the State of Connecticut was seeing for flu activity. She told that they were seeing increases in people going to emergency rooms and their doctors with fever and flu-like illness. Ms. Sosa said they were seeing a lot more flu activity and it was considered widespread, which is the highest level of activity. She explained that the exact number of cases in the state was a little difficult to quantify because many flu cases don't get reported. Sosa says a good number of people just stay home and don't get tested or go to their doctor so that's why they look at flu in a lot of different ways. She says they look at people going to the emergency rooms, people going to their doctors, look at people being admitted for pneumonia, they look at hospitalizations where people are confirmed with the flu, as well as looking at people who are dying from the flu. Sosa says a combination of all of those things together based on percentages define that the flu is widespread in Connecticut.

Lynn Sosa says the flu has been seen in all parts of the state with thus far 2 confirmed deaths from the flu and both people were over the age of 45. So she says the flu is serious as unfortunately every year people die from the flu and are hospitalized with the flu. Ms. Sosa says the risk groups that they are concerned about for the flu are people 65 years in age and older, kids under 5 years old, pregnant women, and people with other medical conditions. Though she says really anybody is at risk and there's always going to be people that have no risk factors who are otherwise healthy that are going to be hospitalized or even die from the flu. That's why Sosa says it is very important that everybody be vaccinated against the flu as it is the best protection that we have. She told that the predominant strain of flu going around this year is the H1N1 flu which tends to be more of a problem for younger and middle age people. The good news is the flu shot this year covers that H1N1 strain ... so everyone should get their flu shot or the nasal spray version told Sosa.

Deputy State Epidemiologist Lynn Sosa explained that the flu season in Connecticut runs from October to May. She says typically the flu peaks in January and February here in our state. So she told it was not too late to get a flu shot with a lot of the flu season left. She mentioned that after a person gets a flu shot it

January 12th, 2014 - (Sosa continued) - normally takes about 2 weeks for it to take full effect. Sosa says last flu season about 46% of Connecticut residents did get a flu shot. She also pointed out that just because you got a flu shot last season you still need to get another one for this year as each year the strains of flu are different.

Deputy State Epidemiologist Lynn Sosa says if you get the flu you'll know it. She says you'll have a very high fever, a cough, a sore throat, body aches, muscle aches and pains. Sosa says you'll be really tired as well and not want to get out of bed. And while a lot of people when they become sick for just a day or two in the wintertime say they have the flu ... in reality the flu usually lasts 5 to 7 days. Sosa also mentioned that it comes on suddenly, one day you feel great ... the next day you feel like a truck hit you. So in order to try and prevent getting the flu, aside from getting a flu shot, they recommend good frequent hand washing, for people to cover their coughs and sneezes with their arm rather than their hands so as to not spread the flu germs.

January 19th, 2014 - Donald Williams - State Senate President Pro Tem – Democrat from Brooklyn.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Senate Democratic leader Donald Williams discussed the 2014 legislative session. He told that a jobs growth plan put forth by Democrats will be a big part of the session. Senator Williams says it will build on legislation that they have passed in recent years that had resources for business incubation and helping small and medium size businesses. He says it will also add more funding for legislation that they had passed to help employers hire additional employees and also get some of the smaller businesses access to capital to upgrade machinery and equipment to remain competitive and hire additional people. Williams says that was such a popular program that it now needs additional funding because the demand is so great.

Senate Democratic leader Donald Williams told that they also want to move forward with some new programs. He says they are looking at what some other states have done with pre-permitting in certain parcels so that it makes it more attractive for companies that want to expand or locate and develop here in

January 19th, 2014 - (Williams continued) - Connecticut and have that certainty if they are going to do it. Senator Williams says brownfield legislation is also part of this plan. Brownfields are commercial or industrial sites that because of what was once there are polluted and before they can be used again they would have to be cleaned up. Williams explained that they want to change the approach on how brownfields are handled. He told that right now in order to access brownfield dollars at the state level the owner of a parcel has to have a potential developer or a purchaser in the wings ready to move. But Williams says what they are finding is that is hard to come by, especially in a state like Connecticut where we have so many brownfield sites. He says Connecticut has been an industrialized state for about 200 years. So Williams says they want to change that so that the site is cleaned up first to make it more attractive for purchasing.

Senate Democratic leader Donald Williams says their job growth proposals also calls for creating a port authority. He explained that with a port authority they can develop the deep water ports in the State of Connecticut without having them compete against each other. Williams says they should be lifting up the state ports in a coordinated way. Another thing they want to do explained Williams is expand enterprise zones and bring in the state universities into that picture for public and private partnerships. Senator Williams also told that they want to go from a pilot program to a full statewide program for the iBest program. He explained that this will enable people when they are pursuing their GED high school equivalency to also have the opportunity for business and technology training, so that at the same time they are getting marketable skills that can help them go to work. Williams says they hope that these proposals will help bring down the state's 7.6% unemployment number.

As for the budget there's good news on that front for a change in this 2014 election year short legislative session from February to May. Senate Democratic leader Donald Williams told that knock on wood it looks like the budget surplus figure of 250-million dollars will hold. He says while they won't take their eye off the ball in terms of fiscal management, they are on the right track and have turned the corner from the days of huge budget deficits.

January 26th, 2014 - Rob Kane - State Republican Senator from Watertown.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue show Republican State Senator Rob Kane from Watertown discussed issues of the 2014 legislative session. He was asked what he thought of the Democrat's job growth proposal which the Democrats tout as a major piece of legislation for this session. Senator Kane says it always sounds good when politicians say they have a jobs program and that's their priority. He told that he's a small business owner, in business for 20 years, and he feels the most important thing they can do as legislators is get out of businesses' way. Senator Kane stated that rather than create programs he would prefer to see legislators create opportunities where businesses can grow themselves. He says that would mean the state lowering the burden on businesses by lowering taxes, easing regulations, lower energy costs, and lower health insurance costs. Senator Kane says businesses want stability, low taxes, and opportunities where they can expand their payrolls. He view is that there should be more attention paid to creating a better business climate overall rather than specific programs to fund certain projects. Senator Kane says we've got more people leaving Connecticut than coming to Connecticut. He says unfortunately Connecticut is number one in the category of worst place to retire, number one in the highest cost of living, has the highest gasoline tax, and has the highest energy costs. Kane says all of those things add up to inhibiting job growth and that's where he feels the state needs to make a change in direction. He says we need to lower those burdens and make it an even playing field.

Senator Rob Kane while on the subject of jobs creation also criticized Governor Dannel Malloy's First-Five program that gives tax breaks to companies that either move to Connecticut or expand here creating more jobs. He says what the First-Five program does is create winners and losers by choosing a certain amount of companies and give them a lot of money while meantime Main Street is struggling. Senator Kane says he feels the opposite approach is needed by getting government out of the way and let the free market prevail.

On the show Senator Rob Kane was also asked about the projected state budget surplus for the current fiscal year of 500-million dollars ... after so many years of huge deficits. Senator Kane told that the surplus is a nice thing in the short term, though he said the problem with that is the state has put off paying the

January 26th, 2014 - (Kane continued) - economic recovery notes until 2018. He also says there are many one-time revenue streams leading to the surplus, not fiscal policy decisions that put the state on the correct track for long term future growth which Kane says scares him. Kane acknowledged that while the economy is often times cyclical Connecticut always seems to be the first to go into a downturn and the last to come out of it. He feels to avoid that the state should have a strong fiscal policy year in and year out. Kane told that even in the budget passed last session the governor increased spending by 9% at a time when we already had the largest tax increase in our state's history but yet continued to spend money. Senator Kane says that doesn't make sense to him and not the right way to go for the state's fiscal policy.

As for other issues in the 2014 legislative session Senator Rob Kane feels the for-profit hospital issue will be big. He told that hospital's ability to negotiate with doctors and nurses is an important issue especially because hospitals are in dire need because their funding was reduced by the state by 560-million dollars. Kane says we saw this play out in the New London Lawrence and Memorial Hospital strike, then lock-out. So he says the issue needs to be addressed. Kane also feels the legislature could look at loose ends for the gun control legislation passed last session. Senator Kane feels there needs to be something passed for mental health stemming from the Sandy Hook shootings.

February 2nd, 2014 - Antonio Guerrero - Rocky Hill State Representative and Co-Chair of the Legislature's Transportation Committee.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue show transportation issues were discussed with the co-chair of the legislature's transportation committee Rocky Hill Representative Antonio Guerrero. The hot button transportation topic over the past few months told Representative Guerrero has been all of the problems with the Metro-North Railroad from derailments causing deaths and injuries to power problems that have left passengers stranded. But one bright note told transportation committee chair Guerrero is that a new president is taking over the Metropolitan Railroad, Joseph Giulietti. He says they will be meeting with the new Metro-North President Giulietti so that the transportation committee can ask

February 2nd, 2014 - (Guerrera continued) - questions as to what his philosophy will be for the railroad and what his thoughts were in regards to all of the problems that have occurred. Guerrera says they want to know how they can stop these incidents from occurring again in the future as commuters are very concerned about these multiple safety incidents. Representative Guerrera says they will want to see some kind of action plan from the new Metro-North president to assure the riders that these incidents will not occur again. He says a lot of these incidents were preventable. Guerrera hope that with a new president and philosophy at Metro-North that the railroad will go back to providing commuters with excellent service and restore their confidence that they'll have a safe, pleasurable commute. He says this is definitely needed as here in Connecticut the state has promoted mass transit to get more cars off the road so it is vitally important that we have a mass transit system that works. Guerrera added that this is also highly important as Connecticut tries to bring more businesses to our state.

Transportation Committee Chairman Representative Antonio Guerrera also discussed efforts to combat distracted driving in the state with the fines being raised for talking on a handheld cell phone or texting in a vehicle while driving. That new law also linked the violations to people's insurance rates. Representative Guerrera says he is happy to report that the numbers of fatalities and accidents have dropped significantly due to distracted driving. He says this means that the laws that they have put in place are working and have helped to save lives. But Guerrera says they still have much more work to do. He feels they need a comprehensive plan to get to our youth at an earlier age. Guerrera says he sits on a task force looking into this and they are looking at possibly implementing a program in our school systems. In this way Guerrera explained that instead of someone just understanding the risks of driving with the distractions of a cell phone at age 15 or 16 when they are getting their license; why not implement a program in the schools at an earlier age to teach them the repercussions of doing something like that. He says in this way they'll have a better understanding when they get older and get behind the wheel. Representative Guerrera likens the message getting across to everyone about not texting while driving or talking on a handheld cell phone to when the seat belt law first went into effect. He says it took a while for people to really grasp the message that they needed to use their seatbelts. But nowadays for the vast majority of people Guerrera says it's become

February 2nd, 2014 - (more Guerrero continued) - second nature for people to buckle up when they get in their vehicle just automatically doing it and not thinking twice about it. Guerrero is hoping that within the next 3 to 4 years we'll see the same thing with distracted driving caused by cell phone use.

On another topic Representative Antonio Guerrero addressed the issue of calcium or magnesium chloride that the state now uses (instead of sand) to pre-treat the roads before winter storms to help prevent icy roads and prevent snowpacking. But some have claimed that the solution had led to brake lines rusting out on vehicles. Guerrero says they are caught between a rock and a hard place where public safety is number one by treating the roads with the best solution to prevent accidents. He did advise motorists that after a few storms perhaps they could go to a car wash and spend a couple of extra bucks to get the undercarriage of their vehicle cleaned to help prevent rusting from the solution used to treat the roads.

February 9th, 2014 - Larry Cafero - House Republican Leader from Norwalk.

Subject Matter: On this week's show House Republican leader Larry Cafero gave his reaction to Democratic Governor Dannel Malloy's state of the state and budget address. Representative Cafero says he felt the governor delivered his speech well but that it lacked reality substance. He says Governor Malloy told everyone that he was really telling the story of Connecticut ... but Cafero explained that when he heard the speech he felt a large part of it was fantasy. GOP House leader Cafero says to hear that speech you would believe that Connecticut as a state has emerged from the depths of the economic recession ... that people are doing well ... that we are creating new jobs ... that small businesses are thriving ... that people's quality of life here in the State of Connecticut is wonderful ... and that people are moving into Connecticut in droves. Cafero says you'd believe from the governor's speech that this is also the place where young people want to stay and where retired people would love to stay. But Cafero says that is all a fantasy.

GOP House leader Larry Cafero told on the show that he's been in the legislature for a long time and has seen the good times and bad times economically. But he says one of the mistakes they continue to make is just as

February 9th, 2014 - (Cafero continued) - things are coming out of the real bad times and if they have any excess revenue ... they spend it all. Cafero says it's like yeah the bad times are over and can't wait to start spending again. But he says all that does is perpetuate, if not worsen, the bad times. For example told the GOP house leader, the governor kept referring to his 500-plus million dollar surplus. Cafero says he has a very difficult time calling anything in this economy and the state of reality in Connecticut a surplus. He questions how Governor Malloy can call it a surplus when by the governor's own admission there are deficits coming in fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 that exceed a billion dollars in each of those years. Cafero also questions the governor calling it a surplus when Connecticut has the largest debt per capita in the United States.

In Governor Malloy's state of the state and budget address he also championed (as have Democrats in Washington including President Obama) raising the minimum wage in states to \$10.10 an hour by the year 2016 from \$7.25 nationally. State House GOP leader Larry Cafero told on the show that just two years ago Governor Malloy was opposed to an increase in the minimum wage because he recognized the negative affects it has on small businesses who are just trying to emerge from the recession. Cafero explained that 73% of the businesses in the State of Connecticut have 9 or less employees ... so Connecticut is a state of small businesses. He says however the state tries to help them on one hand with programs like the Small Business Express and the Step-Up program, but then hurt them on the other hand with things like mandatory paid sick days and continuing to raise the minimum wage. Cafero told that Connecticut just increased the minimum wage less than 8 months ago. He says what happens when the minimum wage is increased is that a small business's budget only goes so far ... so less and less jobs are available and the unemployment rate goes up. So Cafero asks is it nice to get an increase in pay on an hourly basis ... yes ...but it's worse if that job is eliminated altogether. Cafero says he'd rather have the job than the increase.

Meantime GOP House leader Larry Cafero did applaud Governor Malloy on some of his other proposals, as long as there is a way to pay for it. He says Republicans would surely support expansion of universal pre-K and increased investment in the state's community and technical colleges. He also praised the governor for proposing that anytime there is excess revenue that part of it should go to paying down long-term debt and part of it be put in the state's rainy day fund.

February 16th, 2014 - Morna Murray - CEO of the Connecticut Community Providers Association.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue show Morna Murray, CEO of the Connecticut Community Providers Association discussed the need to provide more funding for the non-profit facilities statewide. She explained that they represent primarily the people that take care of some of the most vulnerable people in Connecticut, mostly kids and adults with mental health, developmental, and substance abuse issues. Ms. Murray told that the facilities can be out-patient clinics, homes that people live-in, or places where people go for day services if they have disabilities. So she says it's a variety of community-based settings.

Years ago the state did away with large-scale residential facilities. There was a lot of criticism that people who lived in those facilities would be just put out onto the street. Those in power however said that would not be the case stating that there's a whole network of community providers that does the job very well. Connecticut Community Providers Association CEO Morna Murray explained that there was a huge push to deinstitutionalize people and they did do that because they in effect were warehousing people with very serious needs. Ms. Murray says now they have an extremely strong network of community providers who have the ability and the expertise and the commitment to care for those people. She says whether or not the state is willing to purchase those services is the question. Ms. Murray feels they intend to and told that she has no doubt whatsoever that Governor Dannel Malloy cares very much about the most vulnerable people in our state. But she does say they have some questions about the midterm budget because the state did deinstitutionalize people but hasn't fully-funded the network to replace it. Murray says there is the illusion out there that whenever somebody needs care that the state takes care of them ... but that is not the case.

Morna Murray says unfortunately health and human services for the non-profit community gets cut first right off the bat whenever there's a budget shortfall, as lots of times they seem somewhat invisible. She says however they do have a strong network of community providers who are extremely mission oriented and will do anything to keep the people that they care for going. But Murray says they can only go so far if the state is not providing the funding that they need to care for the people who need it. She told for example they are looking at a little over

February 16th, 2014 - (Murray continued) - 25-million in cuts to state grants for mental health and substance abuse which would be going to outpatient clinics for the people who need it the most. Murray says the assumption has been made that those people are going to be picked up by the Medicaid expansion, assuming that they are enrolling, and then there's the assumption the reimbursements actually cover the cost of the services that are provided. But time and time again that is not the case told Murray. She questions whether they even know if enough people are enrolling in Medicaid that are going to be able to make up the 25-million dollars in state grants for the most critically vulnerable people. She says this could be a time bomb waiting to go off on July 1st, 2015 with people with the most serious mental illnesses walking around on the streets not getting the treatment that they need if that cut is not made up.

Morna Murray, CEO of the Connecticut Community Providers Association, says they need to keep up the services that people need on a daily basis. She says tragedies like Newtown put mental health in the spotlight ... but there's shootings all across the country with people who are falling through the cracks and are not getting the services on a daily basis that they need. Ms. Murray says she is optimistic and encouraged after a family day hearing at the State Capitol. She said she was especially impressed with the co-chairs of the legislature's appropriations committee, Senator Beth Bye and Representative Toni Walker and their commitment to the issues. So Ms. Murray feels that people have the best intentions ... but would just like the budget dollars for community providers to say that as well.

February 23rd, 2014 - Bill Finch - Bridgeport Mayor and President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch, who is president of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, discussed how cities and towns are reacting to Governor Dannel Malloy's new state budget proposal. Finch told that it was a budget from someone who understands local government, as Governor Malloy used to be mayor of Stamford. CCM President Finch says it's not a perfect budget, as there are always things they hope and wish for, but in

February 23rd, 2014 - (Finch continued) - terms of funding for education and PILOT the governor helped municipalities. So in tight budget times Finch says they appreciate the fact that the governor is looking out for local government.

In the discussion with CCM President Bill Finch it was explained that PILOT stands for payment in lieu of taxes. This is the state's attempt to compensate towns for things like courthouses, government buildings, and non-profit colleges, etc. But Finch says it's really a structural problem in Connecticut because there are 169 municipalities which are all very tiny with not much land and Connecticut is a very property tax dependent state. He explained that we don't have county government and there's very little regionalization and every town duplicates services times 169 for the most part. Finch says it's not a very smart way to do government and CCM has been at the forefront of trying to encourage regionalization. He says soul-searching wise that is something the state is going to have to do a lot more of in the future. Finch says Connecticut has to fight the resistance to do things regionally and make the state a smarter government system. He told that it probably hasn't happened because most people like it the way it is. However Finch says certainly none of the cities like it the way it is because they are usually the losers getting dumped on with all of the social problems, but get very little of the money to handle these problems. He says though that he'll continue to push for regionalism because it's much more cost effective.

CCM President and Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch was asked on the show how cities and towns are coping with the brutal winter that the region has experienced with snowstorm after snowstorm. He told that snow removal budgets have been exhausted and that when it's all over and done with after probably 60 inches of snow in his city of Bridgeport ... the figure is going to be about a million dollars cost-wise for this rough winter. Finch says there's no doubt the climate is changing as we've had multiple extreme weather events: a tornado, a couple of hurricanes, tropical storm, Nor'easters, and blizzards since he's been mayor. He kiddingly said they are just waiting for the plague and the volcano at this point. On a serious note however Finch stated that we have to fight climate change. He says in Bridgeport they are trying to do their part with a 50% reduction in their greenhouse gas emissions. Finch says they've also built one of the world's largest fuel cells, have increased their recycling rates by 60% to 70%, and are developing a lot of their brownfields to make sure that there is housing that is transit oriented.

February 24th, 2014 - (more Finch continued) -

On the show CCM President Bill Finch also talked about the state running a budget surplus estimated at 500-million dollars. Governor Malloy has said he'd like that surplus to go to debt retirement, the rainy day fund, and back to the taxpayers in rebate checks from \$55 for single filers and \$110 for joint filers. Finch told on the show that while some people may not be able to identify with that amount as being much to make a difference, he says he deals with people everyday where that amount of money would mean a lot because they are working people who are hurting.

CCM President Bill Finch praised Governor Malloy on the show for his aggressive agenda for economic development. He says the administration is really helping them grow local governments ... especially in the cities where they needed this growth for a long long time.

The one thing that CCM President Bill Finch told that cities and towns would really like to see is relief from unfunded mandates ... something the state requires them to do but sends no dollars to help them do it. For instance Finch told that posting legal notices in newspapers is passé where people no longer read them. He says they want to be open and transparent by putting them online and other means, but not in newspapers anymore that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars that no one reads.