

WAXB FIRST QUARTER 2017

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

Each program has a aduration of 30 minutes

Each program aired on the date indicated from

0600 – 0630 hours

Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2017 Guests and Subject Matters
(January, February, March)

January 1st, 2017 - Peter Gioia - Connecticut Business and Industry Association Economist.

Subject Matter: On the first edition of Dialogue for 2017, Connecticut Business and Industry Association Economist Peter Gioia gave his outlook for what he sees for the State of Connecticut in the New Year ahead. He says he does expect the state to add many more jobs in the New Year. Gioia says he and others from CBIA have been visiting businesses across the state and they have gotten the word that many are looking to add workers in 2017. He says this is not just limited to the areas of aerospace and defense. Gioia told that there are companies in biomedical, plastic fabrication, and in manufacturing that are looking to add people. Right now, in fact, Gioia told many manufacturers in the state are looking to hire highly skilled manufacturing workers ... and when they become available, they'll be hired. Gioia also is optimistic that housing is going to do moderately well during the year which will add construction jobs. The CBIA economist says with the new Trump administration coming into Washington, that could be good for jobs as well, as Trump has focused on adding jobs and on manufacturing. Gioia told on the show that he hopes the Trump administration will structure incentives so that manufacturers can train people who want to work but are not skilled. He says that is a critical factor that has to be done. Gioia also expects transportation projects in the state to add many construction jobs this summer. He says Connecticut companies also do well for defense industry jobs. So Gioia says he is optimistic that Connecticut will far exceed adding 10-thousand jobs in 2017.

CBIA Economist Peter Gioia says the State of Connecticut has had a rough road, and now overhanging all of this is the state budget crisis. Gioia says he is hoping we get through this legislative session in 2017 and the budget process without a tax increase. He says the Malloy administration has said they don't want one and Republicans have said no way ... so he's hopeful that the session ends without a tax increase. Gioia says he's got his fingers and toes crossed that there won't be one. He also says the legislature needs to stay away from proposing any anti-business bills that would hurt businesses here, and would dissuade any potential companies from relocating to Connecticut.

January 1st, 2017 - (Gioia continued) -

One thing that just happened with the start of 2017 on January 1st was the state's minimum wage went up to \$10.10 an hour. The Low Wage Advisory Board has recommended that the minimum wage go up to \$15.00 an hour over the next 5 years. CBIA Economist Peter Gioia is leery about that saying it could hurt small business owners. He says the biggest problem is paying unskilled laborers that high a wage. Gioia says more and more, these types of jobs with technology are being eliminated with increased automation ... so there will be fewer of these jobs in existence. One thing Gioia says CBIA does support is Governor's Malloy's Second Chance Initiative. He says whenever you can train someone for a job who has been in jail, so they can go back into the workforce and not back to the gangs is a good thing, as they become positive members of society.

For the short-term CBIA Economist Peter Gioia says he hopes the governor can renegotiate the state employees' union contracts and get more concessions and modify the bad deal that was made years ago, by former Governor John Rowland. He says more cuts to the budget will also have to be made ... and again, fingers crossed, no tax increases. Gioia says long-term though the state needs to fix the state's fiscal structure with a stable business plan that is sustainable 10 to 15 years out. He says it is a crisis that has to be fixed permanently ... not just by piecemeal.

January 8th, 2017 - Kevin Witkos - Canton State Senator and Deputy Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Senator Kevin Witkos offered a Republican view of what Democratic Governor Dannel Malloy had to say in his State of the State address, as Witkos is Deputy Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore. He summarized what the governor had to say in this way: come to the table, the table is not set yet, everybody can bring something to the table, they'll all sample it, and then they'll decide which is best to deliver to the folks of Connecticut.

Governor Malloy in his address indicated there are going to be more spending cuts needed, pension reform for state workers, and changes in the education aid formula that the state sends to cities and towns. Malloy indicated they may need to send more to towns that need it the most. Those however could be bigger Democratic cities that need it the most, and those that might have it

January 8th, 2017 - (Witkos continued) - deducted from their aid could be affluent Republican towns. Senator Kevin Witkos says he'll have to see what the formula is to see if it is fair and equitable in the distribution of the money. But he told if a lot of Republican towns have reductions at the expense of Democratic cities getting more, that could be a problem.

Senator Witkos did agree with Governor Malloy's statement that the state can't do it all anymore, and that more spending cuts would be needed with the budget deficit the state faces. Witkos told they would like to find efficiencies in state government first and eliminate duplicative services. He says Connecticut is here to lend a helping hand, but unless it's the state's most vulnerable residents, handouts are going to have to stop.

Senator Witkos also hopes Governor Malloy can renegotiate pensions with the state employee unions. He says he doesn't blame the employees as they got a great deal years ago under former Governor John Rowland that runs until 2022. But in the real world today most places don't give pensions, employees get 401K plans. Witkos says at the very least they should renegotiate with the unions that it should change for new employees hired from this day forward. He also pointed out that state employees get both Abraham Lincoln's birthday off for a holiday as well as the combined President's holiday for both Lincoln and George Washington. He says nobody gets both off anymore ... except for state employees. Witkos says renegotiating that down to just one holiday would save the state millions of dollars.

Also on the show Deputy Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore Kevin Witkos talked about the new power dynamic in the State Senate with Republicans and Democrats now each having the exact same number of members after the November elections. He says this is historic as it hasn't happened for some 125 years going back to the 1800's. Witkos though says because of the friendship between Democratic Senate President Martin Looney and Republican Senate Leader Len Fasano, they were able to come to a power sharing agreement where each party would have equal say. He noted that when a bill comes to the Senate floor and if there's a tie Democratic Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman can break that tie. But Witkos says a lot is done in the committee process, which the Lt. Gov. is not a part of. Witkos says this new dynamic will cause both parties in the committee process to have to talk to come to an agreement on issues and bills, and maybe have to compromise and work together across the aisle on the Senate side.

January 15th, 2017 - Jillian Gilchrest - Chair of the Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue show Jillian Gilchrest, Chair of the Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council, discussed the issue of human trafficking. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and while Gilchrest told that when people hear of the term human trafficking, they think of it happening in foreign places. However she says it is happening in the United States and it's happening right here in Connecticut. Gilchrest says they are trying to raise awareness about it this month so that people understand that it's happening to Connecticut citizens and how they can get involved to help end it.

Jillian Gilchrest explained that Connecticut has both labor and sex trafficking that's occurred in our state. She says they know a lot more about sex trafficking here in Connecticut in large part due to the work of the Department of Children and Families. Gilchrest told that for the last 5 years DCF has been tracking children who are victims of what they classify as domestic minor sex trafficking. She says they have identified more than 500 children who have been sex trafficked and sold for sex. Gilchrest says many of these children are vulnerable as they come from homes where there was abuse and these traffickers seek out children with vulnerabilities. For instance, she told some of these men traffickers go to malls looking for youth who are by themselves, or to bus stations to look for children who have run away ... and it is these children who are being sex trafficked in our state.

Gilchrest says this is an ongoing situation and what they are trying to do is not only raise awareness about the issue of sex trafficking, but also focus people's attention on the issue of buyers. She told that too often when sex trafficking and prostitution is talked about, it's the prostitutes that are discussed ... but never really the men who are buying the sex. Gilchrest says they want to focus on that demand side because that is what is fueling sex trafficking. She says based on arrest and conviction data in the State of Connecticut, prostitutes are 7 times more likely to be convicted than those who are buying sex in the state. Gilchrest says we have on the books in Connecticut since 2013 a law where patronizing a prostitute under the age of 16 is a class C felony charge. But she told since that law was enacted in 2013 not one person has been arrested or convicted for paying to have sex with someone under the age of 16 ... which would be basically sexually abusing a child. Gilchrest says they want to know why that is and so they've

January 15th, 2017 - (Gilchrest continued) - launched a Connecticut Campaign Against Demand www.enddemandct.org.

Jillian Gilchrest says their Connecticut Campaign Against Demand wants to raise public awareness first and foremost about those who buy sex – challenge that and explain the impact of it. She says quite frankly the impact of men buying sex is that it creates a demand and then traffickers fill that demand by exploiting children and vulnerable adults. Gilchrest says they want to see police also focus on the demand side and especially with trafficking that’s done on the internet. She says their Campaign Against Demand includes a social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter, as well as billboards and posters on buses. Gilchrest says they would like to see Connecticut strengthen its trafficking laws to the level of the federal government. Last year though she told Connecticut did pass a law making it a requirement for hotel and motel workers in the state to be trained on trafficking. Gilchrest says Connecticut is the first state in the nation now that requires this. She says this is something that is needed because a lot of sex trafficking is arranged via the internet and then takes place in hotels and motels. So, Gilchrest says with this training of workers, hopefully they’ll be able to recognize the signs of trafficking and then report it to the authorities and get these youths and vulnerable adults who are being exploited to safety.

January 22nd, 2017 - Bob Duff - State Senate Democratic Leader (D) from Norwalk.

Subject Matter: On this show State Senate Democratic Leader Bob Duff discussed as he put it “the new world order” in the legislature. He noted that Democrats have a slimmer majority in the State House and there is now a tie in the State Senate with Democrats and Republican each having an equal number of members, although Democratic Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman would cast a tie-breaking vote should that ever occur. Senator Duff however told that 75% of the legislation they pass in the State Senate is unanimous, and 95% of it is bipartisan. So, he says they have worked together, not like in Washington D.C. Senator Duff says there are times when Democrats and Republicans disagree on things like the budget and social issues. So, Duff says they’ll have to see how things work out with a tie in members ... something that hasn’t occurred since the late 1800’s. With this tie situation, there is shared leadership now in the State Senate and Duff says they will have to be good vote counters on what bills will be brought out of committee to the

January 22nd, 2017 - (Duff continued) - full Senate and know that they have enough votes to pass the legislation. He notes that the controversial bills will probably die in committee.

One of the difficulties the legislature will have to deal with is the state budget that once again has a big deficit. Senate Democratic Leader Bob Duff explained that it's not because they are spending more money or there are more state employees, or that they aren't making cuts. He says they've made billions of dollars in cuts since the great recession and have 5-thousand fewer employees than the state did 6 or 7 years ago. Senator Duff told the problem is the state's fixed costs keep going up, such as their pension debt, and teacher's retirement debt. He also says Connecticut has had weak growth, especially weaker sales tax growth and weaker income tax growth.

Senator Bob Duff says they'll have to make some very difficult choices to close the budget deficit, because the state cannot tax its way out of this and the cuts they'll have to make will be very, very difficult. He feels state employee concessions will be needed ... or there will have to be layoffs. Duff says for instance, they might ask state employees to pay a little more for their healthcare and their pensions to save jobs and provide good care services.

Senate Democratic Leader Bob Duff says he's also concerned how new President Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress's policies will impact Connecticut. He says federal policies could have a tremendous impact on Connecticut's budget depending on what they do with federal funding for education, transportation, energy, Medicaid, and what happens with the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare), or a Republican replacement.

January 29th, 2017 - Denise Merrill – Connecticut Secretary of the State.

Subject Matter: On this show Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, who is also President of the National Association of Secretaries of State, reacted to the claim by new President Donald Trump that there was massive voter fraud in the presidential election, perhaps 2, 3, 5-million fraudulent votes. Trump says that is the reason he did not win the popular vote, even though he won the electoral college vote and the presidency. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill told that when she heard Trump's claim, she says she kind of laughed. Merrill says it is such a shockingly incorrect statement that it's hard to know where to start. As

January 29th, 2017 - (Merrill continued) – President of the National Association of Secretaries of State, Merrill told she represents the 50 states and says many of the Republican Secretaries were equally shocked by Trump's allegations. She says it's not surprising that someone might question a few instances of voter fraud with voter ID's ... but to the scale that Trump claims of 3 to 5 million people voting illegally and no one knew about it is just inconceivable.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill says there's virtually no evidence that Trump's claims are true. She told there have studies on questions about undocumented people voting, but study after study has failed to find any. So, Merrill says it has been quantified with the last result being .000001 percent of the votes cast could have been fraudulently cast. She says Trump is implying that there's some sort of in-person voter fraud with literally millions of people registering to vote and they are not citizens. Merrill says it's just hard to image how that could occur as there are so many checks and balances in the system. She says it would imply that there was a massive conspiracy that somehow no one knew was going on. She says voter fraud is prosecuted in every state with the Election Enforcement Commission, and any citizen can file a complaint if they see somebody they think shouldn't be voting. Merrill says they get hundreds, if not thousands of complaints every year ... but very few of them bear out, because the evidence simply isn't there.

Denise Merrill says she feels President Trump politicizing the process is disgraceful. She told you've got to have evidence before you make these claims. Merrill thinks this probably started with someone razzing Trump about him not winning the popular vote by about 3-million votes in the election against Hillary Clinton. Merrill told how Trump then started coming up with claims that there are literally millions of people on two different voting lists and that the voting lists are inaccurate ... which she says is inconceivable.

Now people have heard claims by Democrats that the Russians influenced the election. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill explained what happened there is not that the Russians hacked into our elections system, which they can't because it's not connected to the internet. What really happened she told is the Russians influenced public opinion by hacking into the Democratic National Committee's emails. Merrill says there's actually evidence that the Russians did that ... but no evidence that 3 to 5 million undocumented people voted illegally.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill says she feels Trump's comments on

January 29th, 2017 - (more Merrill continued) - this were damaging and un-American because it shakes the faith of the American people in their elections. She says the elections system in this country is really the bedrock of everything else that we do. Merrill pointed out that even during the campaign Trump would claim every now and then that the election was “rigged” when he thought Hillary Clinton was winning, and now we have his post-election claims. She says his statements are very incendiary, especially in this era where it doesn't take much for people to think there's some conspiracy going on. Merrill says this really does undermine the basic process of our elections ... which Trump won fair and square ... but to reopen this Merrill feels is extremely damaging with no evidence on his exaggerated claims.

February 5th, 2017 - Stephen Gilles - Professor of Law at Quinnipiac University.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Quinnipiac University Law Professor Stephen Gilles gave his insight on President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. This would fill the vacancy left when Antonin Scalia died. Professor Gilles told that Gorsuch is a blue-chip lawyer that is extremely well educated, extremely smart, knowledgeable about federal law, with evenhanded, openminded judicial temperament.

Now many Democrats are miffed that President Obama's Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland went nowhere through the nomination process. With Republicans in control of Congress they waited until after the election to see who would be President ... so Professor Gilles says Democrats told that Gorsuch's confirmation process could be a possible battle. As far as going through the rigorous nomination process for a judge to ascend to the Supreme Court having to be grilled by U.S. Senators, Professor Gilles feels almost any judge would take that gamble. He noted that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas famously complained at one point in his nomination hearings that it was becoming a judicial lynch mob. But Gilles says the opportunity to serve on the Supreme Court for many years, as they are lifetime appointments, and to have some influence on constitutional law and federal law is one that the best judges would be delighted to have.

Professor Stephen Gilles says if confirmed Gorsuch would become one of nine Supreme Court Justices. He says this is where the composition of the Supreme Court is so important and the reason why Republicans stonewalled Judge

February 5th, 2017 - (Gilles continued) - Garland last year because they were hoping another conservative could replace Scalia who died. By not taking up Garland's nomination ... lo and behold, Donald Trump wins the election and now they can confirm a more conservative nominee: Neil Gorsuch. Gilles did point out though that the stakes with Gorsuch are not as high because he is thought to be fairly conservative ... but so was Scalia. So, Gilles says if Gorsuch is confirmed it will not change what had been the balance of the court.

Quinnipiac University Law Professor Stephen Gilles told on the show that ever since Judge Robert Bork's nomination for the Supreme Court (whom Gilles says he clerked for, as well as Justice Sandra Day O'Connor) was rejected by the Senate in 1987 after having been nominated by President Ronald Reagan, things have changed. Gilles says the nomination process for Bork showed that if you are too honest on your views on issues, it could be very damaging politically. He explained what happens now is Supreme Court nominees adopt a strategy in which they say: my job is to interpret the law and apply the law. So, Gilles says yes, he expects Neil Gorsuch to be confirmed to the United States Supreme Court.

February 12th, 2017 - Themis Klarides – State House Republican Leader, Representative from Derby.

Subject Matter: On this show, House Republican Leader Themis Klarides gave her opinions on the state of things after Governor Dannel Malloy just presented his budget to the legislature and the citizens of Connecticut. She told that she's concerned the governor's vision for the State of Connecticut is just passing the buck, and taking costs on a state level and passing a lot of them onto towns and cities. Klarides told that in the end whether the state or the towns and cities have the burden of the debt, the victim is ultimately going to be put on the taxpayers. So, she says the governor has basically guaranteed an increase in property taxes with this budget. Klarides says Malloy's budget passes the buck and burden onto cities and towns' taxpayers ... which are us!

Governor Malloy is asking for sacrifices from cities and towns, one of these is he feels towns should start paying one-third of the cost of teacher pensions. He says those teachers are municipal employees and up until this point the state has paid 100% of the bill and can't afford to do it anymore. House GOP Leader Themis Klarides says she doesn't think that's fair because the State of Connecticut already pushes unfunded mandates on them. So, she says the state is already

February 12th, 2017 - (Klarides continued) - making the towns do many, many things, but not giving them the money to do so. Klarides says that is a main driver why property taxes are too high and keep increasing. She says towns are already under water with the mandates the state puts on them, but don't give them money for them ... and now the state (in Malloy's proposal) is going to put a huge 400-million-dollar burden on them because the state can't handle its own finances. Klarides told that Governor Malloy says we're all in this together, but the towns and cities are already paying a heck of a lot of money. She exclaimed that if the governor thinks the answer is to have towns and cities pay more because the state can't pay their money, it's not the type of vision that she can support. Klarides also explained that while the governor did say he'd offer some mandate relief ... what this is doing is just taking from one hand and giving with the other ... but it doesn't help at the end of the day as it's like a shell game.

Republican House Leader Themis Klarides was also asked about the governor's new school funding plan, taking money from the wealthiest towns and giving more money to the cities. She says she knows it's a complicated formula but she just wants the kids to get the best education possible. Klarides told though that they keep pumping more money into the state's largest cities of Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport, but not getting really good results. She told that an analysis also found 67% of the money goes to administrative costs ... which is not what we think of when it comes to spending money to better our kids' education ... so we need to get much better results from a new formula.

Representative Klarides was asked whether she thinks Governor Malloy is keeping his word that he wants to do things to improve the business climate in the state. He has proposed cutting a tax that affects insurance companies. GOP Leader Klarides questioned whether he's doing that because there have been rumblings insurance company Aetna might be thinking about leaving the state as GE did, moving to Boston. Klarides feels the governor's move is a positive one, but stresses that you can't pass anti-business legislation like has been done the past few years and then wonder why companies want to leave the state. She says the governor also needs to get labor concessions from state employee unions, but feels there also needs to be structural changes such as spending and bonding caps, so the state is not constantly in a bind with big budget deficits year after year.