

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

REPRESENTATIVE KEN GORDON (D-BEDFORD) BEGINS HIS BID FOR REELECTION

There are two kinds of legislators on Beacon Hill. Some show up to talk, and some to act. Some waive their fist in righteous indignation as opportunities pass them by; and others sit down with colleagues, discuss their differences, and get things done.

In my four years in the legislature I have listened to your concerns, identified solutions and then developed a plan to reach that solution. I have focused on solving problems rather than discussing them. And for this reason, I enter the coming election season with the momentum of a session of accomplishment. In the past two years alone:

- I invited MassDOT engineers to come to Burlington to witness the daily gridlock at the intersection of Route 128 and Route 3. In a bi-partisan effort, MassDOT listened and responded. Together with Sen. Ken Donnelly (D-Arlington) we convinced the federal highway department to authorized \$800,000 to redesign the intersection in a way that will address the bottleneck. If you drive on Route 128 during the evening, you will see the construction crews already at work. This is a start. We will continue to address bottlenecks in our district.
- I included \$142,000 as part of the economic development bill to jump start a shuttle system from Lowell to Burlington and Bedford. This is also a beginning. We expect this program to evolve to include more employees, more businesses and eventually be available to residents. And after this initial stage, the program will be funded by the businesses that use it.
- I convinced MassDOT to change its plans and build a new salt shed facility in Billerica, rather than next to a residential neighborhood in Bedford. While residents expected me to raise noise and grab headlines during this crisis, I quietly identified an alternative location, and then brought MassDOT officials to Bedford so they could see for themselves the tension they caused. My decision to avoid headlines gave

MassDOT's executives the opportunity to do an about-face while saving face, resulting in a solution rather than a situation.

- I was named to the Interstate Military Children's Compact to support the education of military families state-wide, and once again protected Bedford's \$517,000 in funding for the education of Hanscom students.
- I continued to oversee the reduction in the number of transitional families housed at the Bedford Plaza Hotel until it went from 88 to the 24-family limit we were promised, while ensuring all families went to a more appropriate place. At this point, the hotel is no longer part of the shelter system. More challenges lie ahead. I will continue to stand up for our working families. I filed and championed a bill calling for paid family and medical leave, and we have the momentum to see it through in the coming session.

I am proud to have the endorsement of every School Committee member in Bedford and Burlington, because they recognize my commitment to our public schools.

I appreciate your past support and ask for your vote on November 8.

Rep. Ken Gordon (D-Bedford)