

Assemblyman **TOM ABINANTI**

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ENVIRONMENT

Assemblyman Abinanti is pro-environment. He stands up for our community- clean air, water and land. Our future depends on what we do today.

BUDGET

The budget provides \$920 million for the Department of Environmental Conservation, less than the Assembly had proposed but still an increase of \$21 million over last year.

The budget provides \$162 million for the state Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), a \$9 million increase above last year's budget – but well below the 2007 all-time high of \$250 million. The increase results from the Assembly's \$5 million commitment on top of \$4 million added in the Executive Budget. The budget also provides \$92.5 million in capital funds to complete some major infrastructure projects in state parks.

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP

The Assembly voted to reform the Brownfields Cleanup Program for the most toxic waste sites. It authorized over \$1 billion for the Superfund and Environmental Restoration Program. The bill is pending in the Senate.

BIOHEATING STANDARDS

The Assembly voted to require heating oil sold in New York to contain at least 2% biodiesel and to incentivize use of 5% biodiesel. The legislation is designed to minimize air and water pollution. The bill is pending in the Senate.

CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS

The Assembly passed legislation to regulate chemicals of high concern to which children are likely to be exposed in children's products. Current federal and state laws do not adequately address these chemicals in children's products. The bill is pending in the Senate.

3 YEAR "FRACKING" MORATORIUM

Assemblyman Abinanti is an outspoken critic of high volume hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in New York. Fracking is a process of extracting natural gas from underground shale formations by injecting millions of gallons of fracturing fluid (water and chemicals) into the ground. The Assembly passed (for the fourth time) a 3 year ban on fracking. The bill is pending in the Senate.

ABINANTI OPPOSES CLEAN WATER \$ RAID

Partnering with environmental groups, Assemblyman Abinanti opposed the Thruway Authority's plan to borrow \$511 million from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to partially finance the Tappan Zee Construction project. The State should maximize the number of clean water projects not decrease them by diverting monies from the Fund. Ultimately, a compromise \$256 million loan was authorized, pending federal approval.

ABINANTI MOTOR VEHICLE IDLING

To improve air quality, Assemblyman Abinanti proposed a statewide law to prohibit motor vehicle idling for more than 3 minutes - modeled after the law he passed when he was a Westchester County Legislator. The bill was pending a vote at the end of session.

EARTH DAY PACKAGE

On Earth Day, Assemblyman Abinanti joined his colleagues in voting to protect and preserve drinking water, minimize pollution, improve recycling and address climate change - following the lead of many environmentally conscious localities. They are all pending in the Senate.

A.8744 - "Microbead-Free Waters Act"

A.1040 - "Private Well Testing Act"

A.6046 - "New York state healthy and green procurement act"

A.6327 - Global warming pollution control

A.3754 - Encourage and enhance statewide recycling efforts

A.4973 - Reducing environmental impacts of foam

A.6558 - State consideration of the effects of climate change

2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BETTER GOVERNMENT

Assemblyman Abinanti is working to make government more open and responsive to our community and to do what is right. Government should be by the people for the people.

ETHICS REFORM

For the third time in four years, the Legislature and Governor passed laws to clean up Albany.

- Defined new crimes involving bribery and corruption of public officials
- Banned those convicted of the new felonies from elected office or lobbying
- Created a new Board of Elections unit to better enforce campaign finance laws
- Required registration and better disclosure for those making independent expenditures (not connected to a campaign)

LEVER VOTING MACHINES

To spare villages, school districts and other local districts additional election costs, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a law co-sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti to permit them to continue using lever voting machines for another year. They also approved a new law making technical amendments to ensure the proper use of these machines.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

The Legislature passed and the Governor signed a law to make New York the 11th state to join the National Popular Vote compact – an agreement among the states to award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote nationwide. The compact becomes effective when states whose electoral votes total 270 join the agreement. New York brings the total to 165.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

To remove the corruptive influence of big money in politics, the Assembly passed comprehensive campaign finance reform for statewide and State legislative offices. The bill co-sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti would permit matching private contributions with public funds similar to the program that has been successful in New York City for many years. The bill is pending in the Senate.

ABINANTI ELECTION LAW REFORM

The Assembly passed Assemblyman Abinanti's bill to update the election law to conform to recent court rulings that the residency requirement for a petition carrier is unconstitutional. The bill is pending in the Senate.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Assemblyman Abinanti challenges the State to better maintain our community's roads, bridges and facilities. Investing in infrastructure produces jobs. Better infrastructure is the bridge to a better future for everyone.

BUDGET

The budget provides \$10.2 billion for the Department of Transportation (DOT), a \$44.5 million increase over the Governor's proposal.

The budget provides \$3.4 billion to fund transportation infrastructure capital improvement projects throughout the State aimed at keeping roads, highways and bridges in good repair and supporting rail and aviation infrastructure, a decrease of \$233 million or 6.4% from 2013-14.

Following advocacy by Assemblyman Abinanti and others, the budget provides an additional \$40 million to supplement the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) as aid to local governments.

INVEST NEW REVENUES

As a result of recent financial settlements, New York will receive more than \$4 billion in windfall revenues. This includes more than \$3 billion that French bank BNP Paribas SA will pay after settling federal charges for violating sanctions on transferring money to Iran, Sudan and Cuba. Assemblyman Abinanti proposed that the one-time revenue be invested, in equal parts, to acquire open space and parklands, restore New York's aging infrastructure and fund part of the new Tappan Zee Bridge.

TRUCKS ON PARKWAYS UPDATE

Assemblyman Abinanti has repeatedly urged DOT to install height restrictor bars across certain entrances to Westchester parkways to deter oversized trucks from entering – and introduced legislation to require DOT action. While trucks still hit bridges, DOT recently announced that it is testing an electronic infrared over-height vehicle detection system at three entrances to the Long Island Northern State Parkway.

9A BYPASS IN GREENBURGH

For 40 years, local officials, businesses and community members have pressed DOT to improve 2.5 miles of Route 9A between Route 119 and Route 100C. DOT resisted due to the high cost. At Assemblyman Abinanti's urging, new discussions are beginning on a new proposal to provide a 9A northbound bypass for "thru-traffic" to go around downtown Elmsford, funded mostly by revenues from an existing business improvement district.



Assemblyman Abinanti talked with Construction Industry Council President Ross Pepe about the condition of Westchester's infrastructure.

POTHOLES

Drivers contribute significant monies toward road improvements in addition to their taxes; yet we have little to show for it. Drivers are still facing State roads ravaged by a harsh winter. Assemblyman Abinanti is trying to spur DOT to more quickly repair potholes.

Emergency Repairs: Assemblyman Abinanti pushed DOT to implement an emergency pothole repair program in Westchester County.

Pothole Portal: Assemblyman Abinanti proposed legislation to create a statewide website to report potholes and check on the status of their repair.

Fair Liability: Assemblyman Abinanti introduced legislation to eliminate the State's current immunity from damage claims during winter months. The State would have the same responsibility that is now imposed on local municipalities given prior notice. The bill was pending a vote at the end of session.



Assemblyman Abinanti conferred with MTA Metro-North President Joseph Giulietti about Westchester service.

TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE

FAIR BRIDGE FARES

Assemblyman Abinanti publicly objected to the Thruway Authority prediction that tolls could skyrocket to \$15 to pay for construction of the two new spans.

Use A Fair Formula:

TZ tolls now subsidize the entire Thruway system. Abinanti proposed 3 plans to keep bridge tolls at about \$6: (1) use bridge tolls to pay only bridge costs; (2) use all revenues from the Authority's "downstate region" to pay only downstate costs, including the new bridges; or, (3) use the current formula allocating Thruway revenues to pay Thruway costs statewide-just include the new bridges.

Reduce Borrowing to Reduce Tolls:

Abinanti also suggested minimizing bridge tolls by using some of the State's unbudgeted windfall revenues as a down payment on the construction costs. For example, \$1 billion of the \$3 billion penalty from French bank BNP Paribas SA could reduce the estimated new bridge's cost allocated to tolls by 25%.

Use Westchester Discounts:

Abinanti has proposed a bridge EZ Pass discount for Westchester residents.

CAR-ONLY LANES

A new bridge presents new opportunities for new approaches to traffic management and safety. Assemblymembers Abinanti and Barbara Clark (Queens Village) teamed up to urge the Thruway Authority to institute car-only lanes on the new bridges.



Assemblyman Abinanti joined President Barack Obama on his May visit to Tarrytown where the President used the Tappan Zee Bridge backdrop to highlight the importance of infrastructure improvements.



Assemblyman Abinanti questioned Commissioners at budget hearings about the State's investment in aging infrastructure.

Around the Community



Assemblyman Abinanti at the opening of a new Tarrytown section (a missing link) of the Croton Aqueduct trailway donated by developers Andy Todd and Barry Prevor.



Assemblyman Abinanti participated in the Hastings-on-Hudson Memorial Day celebration.



Assemblyman Abinanti meeting with summer interns at Greenburgh Town Hall.



Assemblyman Abinanti spoke at the Elmsford Memorial Day celebration.



Assemblyman
TOM
ABINANTI
Reports to the People

AUGUST 2014

Dear Neighbor,

I have had the privilege of representing you as your Assemblyman for the last 4 years. I have taken on two primary tasks. First, I have joined with several of my fellow legislators to give voice to the needs and concerns of our suburban communities in a State government where urban, suburban and rural communities compete for the State's attention and resources. Second, I've tried to use State government to improve our community - to expand the opportunity for all to participate and to ensure that all contribute according to their means.

This is my first report to you since our 2014 legislative session. I discuss my efforts to protect our environment, improve transportation/infrastructure and make our government function better. We made some good progress. I look forward to addressing the challenges that remain in the next legislative session.

In the meantime, I continue to work here in Westchester for our community. If I may be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Thomas J. Abinanti