

October 3, 2011 - The "Loop"

Meeting this past week with Commissioner Emkes, along with State Treasurer David Lillard and Chairman of The House Finance Committee Rep Charles Sargent, we are making progress as we move forward with a mission statement concerning Legislation on reducing and eventually eliminating the Inheritance Tax, known otherwise as the "Death Tax." This bill of which I am most passionate about sends a strong signal that Tennessee values its family farms and family businesses. I am committed to fair taxation laws that will not punish successful people who take the risks with their time and money to provide jobs for fellow Tennesseans. Whittling away this "grave robbers tax" is a large factor towards keeping family businesses in our state and also appealing to future businesses looking to relocate to a friendlier "low tax" atmosphere such as Tennessee. Be on the look out as I take the Inheritance Tax discussions to my district. State Comptroller Justin Wilson and State Treasurer David Lillard will be joining me as we update you on the proposed legislation. What you have worked your whole life to achieve and paid taxes on, more than once, should be left with your children and not the government!

That being said I am honored to work with Commissioner Emkes who made the comment, "The state is setting an example by running itself like a business." Our Governor has challenged us to improve our processes. The good folks of Tennessee are tightening their belts and I am proud to say so is state government. Our state is drawing much attention nationally by what we have accomplished in just the last session alone. Legislation such as tort reform along with education reform and running government more efficiently and effectively has set the stage for what can be done with true conservative leadership. There is still much yet to do however the 107th General Assembly is up to the challenges that are before us when we resume in January. It does matter who governs.

Did you know that one of Tennessee's most valuable assets is its friendliness? Yessiree! And that could be a huge factor in a solution to one of the states perplexing problems, how can we create more jobs in rural areas such as the 40th district? State economic development officials are looking to bring back those jobs that have been going to other countries such as India. I for one get furious when making a call and someone I can not even understand answers to assist me. Good grief give me a person on the other end of the line who speaks English. Do not get me started if I have to press "1" for English! Any how this is exciting to me as rural Tennessee is being postured with updated technology in place to bringing one of the most contemporary job markets, call centers that train workers to help people handle issues by phone. Bring the call centers to rural Tennessee where the people speak English and are indeed the friendliest. Keep praying the 40th district is home to this prospective business.

Over the last few weeks I have been visiting all the Senior Centers throughout the district so that I can better explain the new voter identification law. If you or someone you know goes to the Department of Motor Vehicles office to have a photo taken for identification purposes please let the "Greeter" know that you are there strictly for that reason. At that point you will be expedited to another level or moved to the front of the line. If for some reason you are not moved up in line please ask to speak to the Manager of the DMV. Your wait time to have your picture taken should not take more than 15-20 minutes. If for any reason you experience any conflict or are told differently by the person in charge let me know immediately. You can call my office at 615-741-2192.

With all the negative news hitting us daily how refreshing to visit with a young man who wants to go the extra mile to protect and defend Liberty! Attending Gordonsville High School last week I had the opportunity to meet and chat with this remarkable senior, Tyler Coleman. Wanting to attend West Point Academy, it is my prayer his desire be accomplished and his aspirations be contagious. For this ordinary young man is all about accomplishing extraordinary chapters in his ledger of life. I believe he will! I applaud his parents and the teachers, coaches, those known and unknown who have sown into the life of this young man. May we all aspire to inspire a young person in our daily ledger of life.

Blessings!