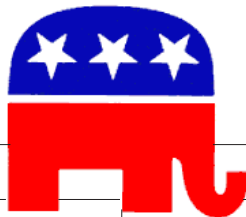


Republican Report

“Collecting more taxes than absolutely necessary is legalized robbery.” —Calvin Coolidge



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A message from the Republican Leader

Over the past couple of weeks our leadership has had a chance to sit down with fellow Republicans, on several of the standing committees, for an informal discussion. So far we have met with our colleagues on seven of the committees and I plan to meet with those of you who sit on the remaining committees within the next couple of weeks. In scheduling these luncheons, we are trying to hold them on days that the committees are meeting to make it more convenient.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6th, we have planned a lunch for Republicans on the Environment & Agriculture, Science & Technology, Finance and Transportation Committees. On Wednesday, Feb. 7th, we have invited our members on the HHS, Ways & Means, Labor and Resources, Recreation & Development committees to join us for lunch at the Upham-Walker House.

It is clear that the work of the committees is off to a slow start. More than 300 bills have been introduced into the House but there are still more than 600 yet to come. As the workload picks up within your committee, it will be more important than ever to keep the lines of communication open with your committee policy advisor. Also keep in mind that the doors to the Republican Office (SH307) are always open to you when you have any questions or concerns.

You may have heard that the Chair of House

Finance recently announced that, beginning in February, her committee would start touring the state, holding public hearings on the budget. People who have a vested interest in the budget process are likely to be attending these public hearings and it is important that we have a strong Republican presence as well.

You should encourage your constituents, who live in the areas where the meetings will be held, to attend. This will ensure that the right questions

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are asked and it will provide the committee members with a broad spectrum of questions, concerns and issues. Most of these public hearings will also be held in Democratic strongholds, so it will be important that the Republican point of view is well represented. In fact, it would be greatly appreciated if you could attend these public hearings personally when they are held in your area.

Too often the message of the average taxpayer who has first hand knowledge of the success of *local control* and *less government* is lost. By encouraging our constituents to be heard, we will remind the governor and Finance committee members that we are still a state that demands fiscal responsibility and conservatism.

Speaking of Republican principles, it was very encouraging to see many legislators participating in the New Hampshire Republican State Committee Annual Meeting last Saturday. It is so important that we stay involved in the Republican Party and keep our focus on regaining our Republican majorities throughout New Hampshire. As you know, two of

our own were involved in the race for NHGOP Chair. Representatives Fran Wendelboe and Will Infantine conducted an extremely positive and open campaign. Their commitment and dedication to the GOP are appreciated by all of us and I cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

Our new chairman, Fergus Cullen, is very excited to work with us here in the House to achieve our goal of being the conscience of the majority. I am optimistic that his “majority mindset” and determination to win elections—so that once again our Republican ideas can be put to work for New Hampshire—is the right direction for our Party. He reached out to us already by attending our first Republican Social last Wednesday at the Upham Walker House.

Please remember that we will also continue to hold our informal “Republican Chats” each Tuesday at 3:30 PM at the Upham-Walker House. Although optional, and without a specific agenda, these get-togethers have been very well attended. There has been an interesting exchange of ideas at these get togethers. In fact, at each of the first three “Chats,” more than 30 representatives have met to discuss an array of topics.

Our next House session will be held on February 15 when we will meet in joint session to hear the governor’s budget address. Prior to the session, we will hold a caucus at 9:00 AM in Rooms 306-308 of the LOB. These caucuses are important, so I hope to see you there.

Thanks again for your contributions to the Republican Caucus.



Important Dates
to Remember

Tues., Feb. 6— Luncheon, **Noon**, Upham-Walker House for Republicans on the Environment & Agriculture, Science & Technology, Finance & Transportation Committees.

Wed., Feb. 7—Luncheon, **Noon**, Upham-Walker House for Republicans on the Ways & Means, HHS, Resources & Recreation and Labor committees.

Thurs., Feb. 15—(**9:00 AM**) Republican Caucus, Rooms 306-308 (LOB). (**10:00 AM**) Joint session for the governor’s budget message followed by a House session.

Wed., Feb. 21—(**9:00 AM**), Republican Caucus, Rooms 306-308, LOB. (**10:00 AM**), House Session.

Thurs., Feb. 22—Last day to report House bills going to a second committee.