



## What's Happening in Middlesex 3

### What's Happening in Middlesex 3- Capitol Hill

MITRE

202 Burlington Road

Bedford, MA

8:30 AM

Introductions to each panelist

1. Jon D'Angelo- U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Regional Director
2. Russell Pandres- U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas, Economic Development Representative
3. Kate Machel- U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Regional Director—She is the central point of contact for any business concerns and makes sure things are followed through on. Senator Markey worked on IRS and budget issues, foreign relation issues at the state level. Senator Markey sits on Commerce, Science, and Small Business, Environment Committees. Opioid focused, making sure technology is assisting in this crisis. Leading net neutrality overturn, one vote away.
4. Rick Jakious- U.S. Representative Seth Moulton, District Director--- Senator Moulton and staff have four buckets: constituent services, transportation, economic development, and veteran services.

Economic development-high-tech advanced manufacturing, biotech, strong supporter of SBIR—Chance in Tech Act- this act expands internships and apprenticeships. Defense industries, workforce development-working closely with G&E, working with them for their \$10M earmark for Lynn. We are going to experience 95% retirement at advanced manufacturing and the big question is how are we going to fill those positions so we don't lose this industry? We need to diversify the advanced manufacturing industry.

Coastline-fishery and tourism, dredging. Lynn—Gateway into our district, working with the state government to support new economic development there. \$150M last year in economic development projects including a new mixed-use housing project.

Transportation- North-South rail link, now expanded to integrated rail. If we are going to solve the transportation crisis in MA, we need to do something bold to address it. We believe we have the infrastructure in place to grow our current transportation resources. We need to expand our service, rapid trains, modernize our stations, so we can run our transportation more efficiently. We can fix our infrastructure and the more people we can get on the trains, less people on the road.

Veterans-Faster Care for Veterans Act---booking appointments on the phone. Bedford VA is currently using this booking service at their hospital.

There is a great connection between our state and DC office. TLDR Act—Too Long, Didn't Read. Push for simplifying letters from the government, so people know what they are reading from the minute they open the mail.

Christian LoBue- U.S. Representative Katherine Clark, District Director- 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Lexington)- Working on legislation for the opioid crisis, increasing access to beds and tools to address this issue. Neo-natal issues with the babies that are born addicted so there is coordination of care throughout the country so this issue can be address.

Dealing with online harassment issues. Worked with a constituent who was being harassed on Twitter--- threatened with death, rape. The constituent went to the FBI and they said to get off Twitter. Representative Clark and her staff didn't think that was the appropriate answer and now are working to find ways to prosecute this type of harassment.

Working on advancing women and lifting-up our constituents.

Opened up the discussion to our attendees--- Please state your name, company and what you do.

***Ira Goldman, Lantheus Medical Imaging- Government Relations  
Billerica, MA***

**Lantheus has been around for 60 years, they do cardiovascular imaging and nuclear space. They have good relationships with all these representatives Washington offices, and they work with them on Medicare reimbursement issues and broader healthcare issues, and isotope supplies. We have worked with our local representatives on visa issues, and we would love to have you come see our company. Any general guidance when we should go to the local representatives or to Washington?**

Jon D'Angelo (Warren)- Please reach out to us at anytime and can be the direct line to Washington and make sure we connect you with the appropriate person.

Christian LoBue (Clark)- If you would like the Congresswoman for a tour, then coordinate with me. We work closely with them during appropriation season, so in particular during that time would be the best.

Rick Jakious (Moulton)- It is important from our office to get our staff to your company first. to know and be the eyes and ears and then we can pull him when those issues need to be addresses. When policy issues it makes sense to go to Washington, maintaining that contact.

Kate Machet (Markey)- Our role is to know what is going on with economic development in our region. Reach out to us regardless with any issue or policy concerns.

Russell Pandres (Tsongas)- Reach out to all of our offices, we will make sure we find the right person to work with you.

***Jim Murphy, North Suburban Chamber of Commerce-President  
Woburn***

**A number of our members do exporting, especially exporting to China. I work with a lot of them closely to do their exporting certificates. A lot of these companies are having anxiety on what is going to happen with trade policy given today's political environment.**

Jon D'Angelo (Warren)- A lot of uncertainty, a lot of his policy seems to be on Twitter and not consulting with Congress. We are trying to work more closely with Republicans to figure out a way to address this.

Kate Mchet (Markey)- Reinforcing your policies on the ground, clear eyes and ears from the foreign relations prospective and other parts of Congress. If any of our companies have concerns, please come to us so they have tangible evidence to pose on behalf of companies who export in MA.

Rick Jakious (Moulton)- A trade war would be awful for our economy. We hear over and over from our businesses, is consistency and they want to know what to expect. We don't have currently lack any sort of consistency and direction in this political environment.

***Kristen Kassner, Town of Burlington- Planning Director  
Burlington***

**Tax-reform and it's effects on municipalities— most importantly property taxes and financing for development projects (TIFs, etc.). I would like to understand at your levels what the conversation is? A lot of great projects going on in our M3 communities and don't be afraid to reach out to us for back-up on how financial assistance from our state and federal government has assisted in these projects.**

Russell Pandres (Tsongas)- In regard to property-tax deduction, we haven't heard from communities so much about this. We have noticed the turnover of the administration and we have been struggling with this and when we need any sort of approval in DC.

Kate Mchet (Markey)-Even the IRS doesn't know how this is going to implemented. The last time we did this it took years and there is a lot of speculation how and who it is going to impact and how it is going to roll out. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out.

***George Kachen, GK Enterprises-President  
Reading***

**Economic development based on technology and innovation. We need more funding to support our educational system in further innovative teaching techniques. Property-taxes play a huge role in this so money roles back into the school. We hope you will play close attention to this and we take the lead on innovative, transportation, education, etc.**

Christian LoBue (Clark)- Representative Clark spent time at school-committee and said it was the hardest role in government she has ever dealt with. We need to look at how we are building an economy that works for everyone and how we compete globally. How we deal with the education and transportation budget and the budget as a statement of value. This is a strategic plan on where we want our country to go and how we keep our country competitive. There is a difference in investment and spending and we need to think of our long-term investments and what our return is.

***John Petrin, Town of Burlington-Town Administrator***

**In regard to transportation dollars, communities in MA don't get direct money from the federal level. It gets sent to the state and then flushed out to the communities. The federal level doesn't get the recognition it deserves. When the new regime came in there was a lot of fear losing this type of funding (Chapter 90). What do you see as the future of that federal money coming to state and then to our communities?**

Rick Jakious (Moulton)- There are a few things—this is one area republicans and democrats should come together to address our infrastructure issues (roads, trains, energy grids, water). We should be able to

come up with a solution to put people to work and provide us the infrastructure we need. The tax bill is going to add 1.5 trillion debt and passing this money down doesn't seem possible. The money is basically going to subsidize projects that are already planned, not new projects. Incredible challenge on how we are going to address this. If we can bring people together and create a package that is forward-thinking. The challenge is the government is kind of slow to react, and we are constantly trying to solve the problems today and we need to think of issues 10-20 years out. We think of our transportation (trains, roads, planes, etc.) separately and we need to think how we can operate these as an integrated network. Not individually... We need to look at this for everyone, so people can live in their rural area but still work in urban areas. INTEGRATION.

Jon D'Angelo (Warren)-There are still 41 communities in MA that don't have high-speed internet, and Trump thinks that the state, local communities should be the one handling this.

***Rob Anderson, Town of Billerica-Community Development Director***

**With the high-cost of energy in Massachusetts is there anything in the pipeline to address this?**

Christian LoBue (Clark)- We don't know of anything in the pipeline, and we hear it constantly from our municipal leaders and it is something we are looking into.

Kate Mchet (Markey)- This is a big issue, I am more than happy to get you more information. We as a delegation continue to try fund for these things. We are in a very cold climate and the safety issues that come with this. And we are always thinking what is the best energy?

***Dave Moody, MITRE- Director of Massachusetts Operations & Strategic Development***

**What is the latest and greatest on BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure)? Also, do you know what the is in the pipeline for Hanscom AFB?**

Jon D'Angelo (Warren)- I don't have a direct answer for that but I can get it to you.

Kate Mchet (Markey)- Hanscom keeps making investments, so I don't see it going anywhere.

Chuck Paone (Hanscom AFB)-We are bursting at the seams and the industry is booming and the ecosystem here supports us. We do run into larger transportation issues for our employees and how can we accommodate and address these transportation issues

Russell Pandres (Tsongas)- Getting qualified people to Hanscom AFB is the issue?

Chuck Paone (Hanscom AFB)- The pay-scale isn't commensurate to the private sector in the area and it is hard to attract the talent to work there. People can't afford life around here (Bedford area) and transportation issues deters people from taking jobs since they can only afford to live in NH. A lot of competing demands. Transportation and living costs are factors that are eliminating growth at the Hanscom and the region in the whole.

Stephanie Cronin (Middlesex 3 Coalition)- I want to thank everyone on this panel and we will continue this conversation moving forward.