

My fellow senator Jack Reed is here tonight. With fifteen years in the Senate, the senior senator he is, indeed-I can't seem to find him in this crowd. Oh, there you are, Jack!

And I'd like to thank Congressman Cicilline for co-sponsoring this event tonight. He's been working so hard for your benefit. Have you seen his legislation on protecting our seniors from identity theft and fraud? Excellent work.

And a special thanks to Roberta Ragge, JoAnn Marzilli, and the entire staff of the Tamarisk Assisted Living Facility for hosting this event for us. It's always a pleasure to reach out to the wise and well-respected members of the community.

Just a few years ago, that lot across the street was just a bare hill. Bare of buildings, bare of trees, even bare of a tiny blade of grass or the simplest indication of life. You turned off of 95 at 75 miles an hour and faced a bare hill without an opportunity to let Rhode Island's beauty show.

But now, that bare hill has become a thing of great beauty. Brick buildings tower over the highway like a pillar of strength. Companies fought tooth and nail to land a lease in this beautiful new plaza. Think of the jobs that have been created, from the owner of that movie theater or the landscaper who brought in this beauty.

Turning off of 95, you no longer see a bare hill. You see the opportunity that this state is known for.

That is, if you slow down long enough to actually see it.

Rhode Island has always been a mighty state, even despite our tiny size.

When the Great Depression hit, you fought for a health insurance program to cover all low-income children.

When the Blizzard of '78 buried us for weeks on end, you fought for better practices for national emergencies.

When the Station nightclub fire claimed the lives of a hundred innocents, you fought for new regulations on fire codes-not only on the state level, but nationally.

Rhode Islanders are what make this state so mighty. They fight for what they believe.

And I believe I can continue to fight for you.

I am running for re-election to the Senate, because I believe in turning those bare hills into things of beauty.

I see opportunity for jobs, for your children and your grandchildren.

I see opportunity for those jobs to help fund your healthcare, your grandchildren's education, and your weekly Awful-Awful fix at the Newport Creamery down the road. Yes, I know about Tuesday nights, too.

Now, I have always been a strong advocate for job creation in our state through a few different opportunities. I've helped secure grants for several renewable energy products that will provide Rhode Islanders with both jobs and lower energy bills.

I supported legislation to help veterans, much like yourselves, get jobs in today's workforce.

And I've spent a lot of time sitting down with small business owners, sharing a grinder and a cabinet while we talk about the future. And when I do, I always get asked the question, "But what can you do for the smallest state? How can we be heard?"

It's not what I can do for the smallest state. It's what we can do.

But what can we do with an unemployment rate of nearly ten percent?

I want to continue to bring new job opportunities to Rhode Islanders.

I want to bring more jobs and funding in to make the Port of Providence the cargo and shipping center it once was.

I want to continue to fund development grants for small businesses, especially for those working towards greener industries.

I want to create more programs for students at CCRI and New England Tech so they can receive job training in jobs they will actually be hired for.

I want to give Rhode Islanders jobs in fields that not only help our state, but help our people as well.

Job creation may be our biggest issue, but by bringing new jobs in we can solve so many of the problems we face today.

We can create hundreds of new jobs through our new healthcare reform, and through scientific research to keep Rhode Islanders healthy and happy.

We can stand up to foreign countries that try to manipulate trade regulations and bring jobs back to our own shores.

We can eliminate our dependence on foreign oil by putting Americans to work on creating clean, renewable energy.

And we can keep this money that we've worked so hard to earn by eliminating Bush-era tax cuts and lowering the deficit the Republicans are so quick to ignore.

I've seen big names like Sherwin Williams fall from grace for trying to poison our children.

I've seen my son's graduating class go on to attend Rhode Island Universities and keep our brightest young minds bright.

I've seen the windmills just off of 95 bringing the winds of change down our highways-and thankfully, not the winds from the sewage plant down the road.

For two decades now, I've helped Rhode Islanders fight for what they believe in, and I know I believe in what they're fighting for.

Together, we can bring jobs home to make those bare hills beautiful.

Together, we can keep those jobs green and growing.

Together, we can keep small businesses serving grinders and chowder year-round.

Re-elect me and I'll fight for those bare hills, that beauty, for Rhode Island.

Thank you.

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