



ILLINOIS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

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Illinois Chamber Advocates for Tax Reform in Washington

SPRINGFIELD, September 14, 2017 – Illinois Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Policy Benjamin Brockschmidt and Executive Director of the Tax Institute Keith Staats represented the Illinois Chamber, alongside some of its members, at a series of meetings Wednesday, Sept. 13 in Washington to discuss the need for federal tax reform. The meetings, supported by U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam (IL-6), took place throughout the day at the U.S. Capitol, White House and the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Representatives from companies including Wintrust Financial Corporation, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, John Deere, GROWMARK, Motorola Solutions, The Maschhoffs, and Tate & Lyle, members of the Illinois Chamber, accompanied Brockschmidt and Staats. Throughout the day, participants consistently emphasized the importance of a more pro-growth, simplified tax system that promotes a stronger business environment.

“Great meetings at the White House, Capitol Hill, and Treasury Department discussing pro-growth ideas to modernize the tax code. The Illinois Chamber was well represented with a cross section of businesses and industries including farming and agriculture, banking, technology, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, U.S. inbound and outbound corporations, and small closely held businesses,” Vice President of U.S. Tax at Tate & Lyle Lawrence Pociask said.

The first meeting in the series kicked off at the U.S. Capitol where business advocates met with U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan’s staff. The topic of conversation heavily revolved around how significant a predictable and understandable tax system is for businesses of all sizes.

“Federal tax reform affects the state of Illinois and presents many challenges, but none that can’t be overcome. By continuing discussions and taking action, we can create a better environment for the business community. This issue is local, statewide, national, and even global,” David Dykstra, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer of Wintrust Financial Corporation said.

Following the Capitol visit, Brockschmidt and Staats alongside members met with the Director of the National Economic Council Gary Cohn in the West Wing of the White House to continue the conversation. The discussion focused around the importance of the low broad tax rate, permanent



tax reform, reducing the corporate income tax, and how tax reform can help grow wages and improve competition among Illinois businesses.

“The current tax system is damaging to small, medium, and large businesses. We can’t allow this to continue if we want Illinois to remain economically competitive. This needs to be addressed on a state and national level, and it’s why we came to Washington to show Illinois is paying close attention to the rhetoric,” Julie Maschhoff, of The Maschhoffs from Carlyle, Illinois said.

The day concluded at the U.S. Department of the Treasury where the conversation continued. The business community was reminded that it needs to be a continuous part of the process for a system that ensures American, and Illinois, businesses can compete globally.

In recent weeks, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce has also participated in local tax reform roundtables held by U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam (IL- 6) and U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis (IL- 13).

“Keeping the discussion going is important. We’ve been glad to be able to join the conversation on both state and federal levels, and appreciate those who have also made tax reform a priority,” Illinois Chamber of Commerce Executive Director of the Tax Institute Keith Staats said.

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