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Illinois Chamber of Commerce statement on the Senate passage of Senate Bill 1407

“Senate Bill 1407 is next to minimum wage on the list of worst bills for businesses being voted on this session,” said Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch. “Last month, Marquis Energy, the largest dry-mill ethanol plant in the United States, cited SB 1407 as one of its top reasons for halting their \$500 million Illinois expansion.

“Specifically, their statement said that the bill would be, ‘removing our company’s choice in construction contractors we hire and the agreed upon price between the two parties, reducing competition and inflating costs.’

“Besides being a completely unfair imposition of organized labor on private businesses, this legislation is so broad that it could apply to businesses that are not even being considered in the debate, such as trucking companies and hospitals.

“While one more company choosing another state to expand in may not mean much to our legislators, the jobs that would have come with an 800 acre plant could have meant the world to the people of Scott County.

“This may be a win for unions in Chicago, but, downstate, it is a total loss for the people whose lives it will actually affect.

“The governor is known for his business experience and success. Should this bill pass the House, we are calling on him to stand up for the business community he says he is here to support and veto this bill that would have devastating affects throughout Illinois. “

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