

ADVOCACY REPORT



ILLINOIS CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

17TH LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD



On Feb. 13, Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch addressed hundreds of business leaders to highlight Illinois' strengths and talk public policy. Maisch addressed issues including NAFTA, Medicaid, workers' compensation, DACA, 5g technology, property taxes, infrastructure and more public policy issues. He reminded the audience why Illinois has so much promise and that we must remember that Illinois is the 17th largest economy in the world. You can listen to his full speech [here](#).



CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER GARY RABINE TALKS TAX REFORM



Small businesses received a 20 percent tax deduction and the ability to immediately expense their business investments under the new federal tax law. The Rabine Group reminds policymakers across the nation in an USA Today op-ed that while big corporations are reaping the rewards of federal tax reform, we're also seeing "small business optimism like we haven't seen in more than a decade." [More here.](#)

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If you are interested in learning more about the Illinois Chamber you may click [here](#) to contact Jeanette Anderson



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For the chance of Illinois having a balanced budget, the economy has to grow faster than government spending.

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DISSECTING ILLINOIS' 2018 BUDGET ADDRESS

On Feb. 14, Governor Bruce Rauner delivered the state's 2018 Budget Address. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce responded to the address in the [Two-Minute Drill](#) here. For the chance of Illinois having a balanced budget, the economy has to grow faster than government spending. The state can't spend more than it brings in for successful economic growth.

LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch releases Two-Minute Drill from the Illinois State Archives building that houses millions of state records, some that date back to 1810. Maisch highlights four bills including a Chamber initiative to keep on your radar. Watch the full video [here](#).



GOVERNOR VISITS GROWMARK: DECLARES AGRICULTURE KEY TO ILLINOIS' ECONOMY

On Feb. 22, Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch accompanied the governor, lawmakers and industry leaders to GROWMARK's headquarters to join a discussion on Illinois' agriculture industry. The leaders gathered to emphasize how critical the industry is to the state's economy and to address the important issues facing our agriculture community.



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The Illinois Chamber of Commerce knows that our state faces many economic and environmental challenges, but supports the balanced approach of policy that encourages business growth with smart environmental investment.

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Rep. Rodney Davis
R-Illinois, 13th Congressional District

MESSAGES FROM WASHINGTON

On Feb. 16th, U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis (IL-13) dropped by the Illinois Chamber’s Springfield office to discuss the latest happenings on Capitol Hill. Cong. Davis and Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch discussed the need to use commonsense approaches to secure the border, the latest in the federal proposed budget, and the need for both Democrats and Republicans to get on board with major infrastructure investment. [Watch here.](#)

TIME TO CHANGE INFRASTRUCTURE RHETORIC TO POLICY

As the heart of North America’s transportation and infrastructure networks, Illinois is in a unique position to benefit from focused federal leadership on infrastructure investment. In February, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and 37 state chambers of commerce from across the country who belong to the Council of State Chambers wrote a letter to the 115th Congress stating that it is time to transform encouraging rhetoric to actual policy proposals and legislative action on the issue. Illinois Chamber’s Benjamin Brockschmidt is a co-chair of COSC’s Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, as is Seth Millican from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

BUSINESS GROWTH MEETS SMART ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT

The IEPA released its draft Volkswagen settlement plan on Feb. 28. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce knows that our state faces many economic and environmental challenges, but supports the balanced approach of policy that encourages business growth with smart environmental investment. Read the Illinois Chamber’s full statement [here.](#)



CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of February, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois. Below is a selection of stories where the Chamber has advocated its position on a variety of topics.

ILLINOIS & TRADE

- [Ending NAFTA Would Be Bad Politics And Bad For Americans: Trudeau](#)
 - [Killing free trade would hurt U.S. middle class, Trudeau tells Chicago crowd](#)
 - [Killing free trade would hurt U.S. middle class, Trudeau tells Chicago crowd](#)
 - [Killing free trade would hurt U.S. middle class, Trudeau tells Chicago crowd](#)
 - [Trudeau tells Chicago crowd killing free trade would hurt US middle class](#)
 - [Killing free trade would hurt U.S. middle class, Trudeau tells Chicago crowd](#)
- [Protesters to welcome Trudeau on first leg of U.S. trade trip](#)
 - [Protesters to welcome Trudeau on first leg of U.S. trade trip](#)
- [Trudeau's "bad jokes" are starting to pile up](#)

ILLINOIS ECONOMY

- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch](#)
- [Right-To-Work Holdouts Face New Efforts to Change Labor Laws](#)
 - [Right-to-work proponents not giving up](#)
 - ['Right to work' holdout states face new efforts to overhaul labour laws](#)
- [City Club of Chicago: Todd Maisch, President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [IL Chamber of Commerce President Maisch calls for policy reforms to boost Illinois economy](#)

GOVERNOR RAUNER

- [Rauner says state 'sliding toward the abyss'](#)

OTHER CHAMBER NEWS

- [President, CEO of Ill. Chamber of Commerce to speak at Community Update Breakfast](#)
- [State chamber president to speak at Community Update Breakfast](#)
- [Charleston Chamber to host Candidates Forum](#)
- [Biz group blasts Ives' new immigration ad](#)

NEW CHAMBER WEBSITE

We've officially launched our new website where you can find the latest information on our membership, government affairs, councils, business services and communications efforts! We encourage you to [check it out!](#) [Take the tour here](#)