

ADVOCACY REPORT

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1919-2019

ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

DIERS JOINS GOVERNOR FOR DATA CENTER CEREMONY



Executive Director of the Chamber's Tech Council Tyler Diers joined Governor JB Pritzker, legislators, business and labor leaders, trade groups and existing data center stakeholders to promote Illinois' new tax incentive for data center construction at Digital Realty in Chicago on October 7.

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

NOVEMBER 2019 | **ADVOCACY REPORT**



“

Revenue raised this summer is already having an impact and the plan shows continued and significant investment is under way.”

—Todd Maisch on Gov. Pritzker’s release of
Rebuild Illinois projects, *Jacksonville Journal Courier*

my JOURNALCOURIER

[Read full article here.](#)



RETURN OF THE TWO MINUTE DRILL

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch gave a preview of some issues the Chamber is monitoring in the 2019 Veto Session, including taxes, data centers, cannabis and energy in one of the last session Two Minute Drills of 2019.

[Watch the latest Two Minute Drill here.](#)



At left: IERG Executive Director Alec Davis addresses the group

IERG HOLDS ENVIRONMENTAL BASICS CONFERENCE

The Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group (IERG) held its Environmental Basics Conference on October 9 and 10, at Erin’s Pavilion in Springfield. This year’s conference featured a range of guest speakers from agency directors to environmental permit writers in order to give attendees a broader understanding of government agency structure, understanding of programs offered, and completing necessary steps to obtain permits. Attendees included a wide range of environmental professionals from businesses throughout the state.



At left: Director of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Colleen Callahan addresses the group



“

The trip was part of the Chamber's participation in the Professional Fellows Program via the U.S. State Department as part of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL).

”



Gerritsen (second from left) with Vietnam Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (VINASME) in Hanoi. Dr. To Hoai Nam, Vice Chairman Cum General Secretary, VINASME (pictured far left).

GERRITSEN MEETS WITH BUSINESS LEADERS IN VIETNAM

Chamber Chief Operating Officer Candace Gerritsen traveled to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to meet with business people, government leaders and agencies and business organizations related to Small and Medium Enterprises this October. The trip was part of the Chamber's participation in the Professional Fellows Program via the U.S. State Department as part of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). The ACYPL is part of the White House Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). This exchange is made possible through a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Gerritsen at the U.S. Consulate General office in Ho Chi Minh. This is in their American Center which Vietnamese Students can come and study, have access to books and technology and apply to American Universities.



“

It's one of those issues that could be groundbreaking, and we wanted to make sure that we got it right.”

”

— Tyler Diers on Artificial Intelligence, TechTarget



[Read full article here.](#)



DIERS PARTICIPATES IN CANNABIS PANEL

Chamber Director of Legislative Relations Tyler Diers participated in a panel on marijuana in the workplace at the Tax Slayer Center in Moline on October 3.

Illinois Chamber Director of Legislative Relations Tyler Diers, State Rep. Mike Halpin, (D- Rock Island), Pappas O'Connor, P.C. Partner Matthew Pappas and Quad Cities Chamber Vice President of Business Services Julie Forsythe



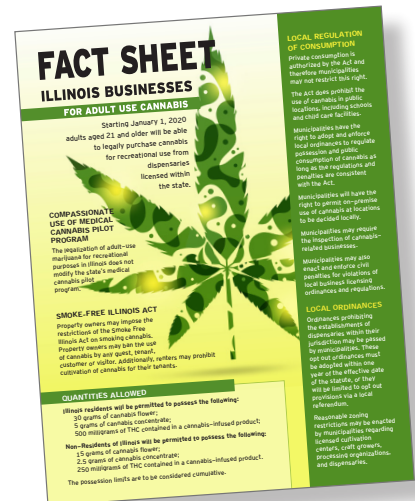
MAISCH GIVES MEDIA AVAILABILITY ON CEJA

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch discussed energy issues with Cole Henke from WCIA and other reporters on stories covering the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) on October 28.

CHAMBER PUBLISHES CANNABIS GUIDE

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce Resource Guide for Recreational and Medical Marijuana in Illinois is now live on the Chamber website. The guide includes a copy of the Act, along with blog articles, frequently asked questions and a fact sheet for Illinois businesses. A sample drug policy/reasonable suspicion checklist is also available for purchase from the guide.

[Read full cannabis guide here.](#)





The notion that you can just throw up, what, a tent in a rural area, and all of a sudden start sterilizing your equipment? That's just nonsensical.



— Todd Maisch on the effective ban on sterilization facilities for health care products by requiring siting of facilities only in rural areas after years of siting, permitting and construction

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[Read full article here.](#)

STONEWATER SPEAKS AT ISU REGULATORY POLICY STUDIES CONFERENCE

Executive Director of the Chamber Energy Council Katie Stonewater spoke on energy proposals that have been introduced in the Illinois legislature and participated in a panel discussion at the ISU Regulatory Policy Studies Conference at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield on October 22. Her remarks focused on the Chamber's concerns with the Clean Energy Jobs Act and the Clean Energy Progress Act.



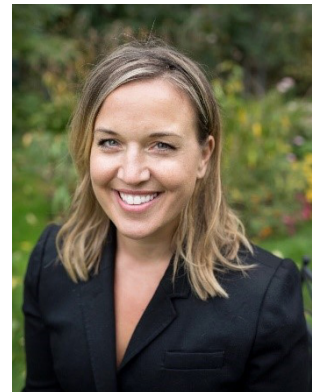
STAATS PRESENTS IN WASHINGTON DC

Executive Director of the Chamber Tax Institute Keith Staats gave a legislative update, along with predictions for "hot" Illinois tax issues for 2020, at the Council on State Taxation (COST) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC on October 25.



ICC CHAIR ZALEWSKI MEETS WITH ENERGY COUNCIL

Illinois Commerce Commission Chair Carrie Zalewski met with members at the Chamber Energy Council breakfast at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's Chicago office on October 9. Zalewski gave a robust presentation and talked with members one-on-one in discussion that included ICC engagement, working with the consumer community, and the ICC's role in supporting the grid as the energy industry continues to change.



NEW OBESITY INITIATIVE



The Chamber is partnering with NovoNordisk on a series of webinars on the topic of obesity. The first two events are highlighted below:

novo nordisk

[Click here for information on November 21st Webinar](#)

[Click here for information on December 11th Webinar](#)

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of October, 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.

AUTOMOTIVE INTERVIEWING

- [A backlash emerges over automated interviewing](#) – Tyler Diers quoted

CANNABIS

- [Chamber event aims to guide businesses through regulations](#) – Jay Shattuck quoted
- [Into the haze: how will legal marijuana affect employers and workers?](#) – Tyler Diers quoted

CHAMBER

- [Doug Darch receives Illinois Chamber's Champion of Free Enterprise Award](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

HEALTHCARE

- [EtO Restriction Bill Passes Illinois House On A Thin Margin](#)
- [Biz groups launch opposition to new ethylene oxide bills](#) – Todd Maisch mentioned

INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Business Group Expects Another Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Illinois](#)
- [Rep. Mazzochi earns Friend of Infrastructure Award from TFIC](#)

TAX

- [Illinois drivers paid more than \\$200 million in added gas taxes over two months](#) – Todd Maisch mentioned
- [Morgan to see \\$35.9 million in road improvements; new bridges planned for Florence, Beardstown](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

ENERGY

- [For now, little power behind push by clean energy advocates](#)
- [IL Chamber of Commerce Not In Favor of Clean Energy Jobs Act Before General Assembly](#)



The Chicago Rockford International Airport and Chamber member **UPS** celebrated their growth with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and other elected officials and guests of honor on October 7. UPS has made Rockford its second-largest air hub in North America with more than 2,300 employees in the area.

[Read more here.](#)

Chamber member **Amazon.com** announced their plans for a new 1 million square-foot fulfillment center with more than 500 new full-time jobs in Channahon, IL on October 11.

[Read more here.](#)

Chamber member **Wahl Clipper Corporation USA**, the 100-year-old company headquartered in Sterling, IL, presented a \$75,000 check to the Wounded Warrior Project at a special dinner to celebrate American veterans on October 4. The evening honored military heroes and their contributions in building an infrastructure that supports the 'Made in the USA' economy.

[Read more here.](#)

Chamber member **BP America** announced their plan to construct a \$25 million dollar pilot plant in Naperville, IL in 2020 on October 24.

The plant will transform plastic waste into virgin quality feedstocks and divert landfills by improving their technology.

[Read more here.](#)

