

# ADVOCACY REPORT



ILLINOIS CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS  
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

## 2018 SPRING SESSION COMES TO A CLOSE



Unlike previous years, on May 31, 2018 the Spring legislative session ended with a full budget that has been recently signed by Governor Rauner. The budget deal created less tension at the Statehouse this year with Illinoisans escaping any new tax burdens. However, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce continues vying for real reforms on key business issues. Read the Illinois Chamber's End of Session Report [here](#), which highlights the Chamber's victories and other pertinent legislation affecting the business community from this session.



ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

*2018 End of Session Report*

## GRADUATED INCOME TAX WRONG FOR ILLINOIS

This May the Illinois Chamber aggressively weighed in on why a graduated income tax would be damaging for Illinois. Higher taxes on small businesses will create fewer jobs, and minimize economic opportunity and revenue for the state. Read Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch's May 10 opinion piece on the issue [here](#).

Additionally, on May 2, Illinois Chamber's Benjamin Brockschmidt and Keith Staats testified against HR 1025, a resolution in support of a graduated income tax, at the Revenue and Finance Committee in Chicago. The resolution was adopted in the House on May 29 by narrow margins and we will continue to advocate against the concept that is founded with a mindset that ignores the interests of the business community.



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

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In a statement issued on May 30 about SB 20, Todd Maisch said, ‘We believe the result of the bill will be a marked reduction in a large backlog of cases yet to be heard.’

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## SB 20, A WIN FOR ILLINOIS

Illinois Chamber Executive Director of the Employment Law Council Jay Shattuck worked with legislators to successfully pass SB 20, a bill that helps streamline government and business efficiency by making both procedural changes to the Illinois Human Rights Act and structural changes to the Illinois Human rights Commission. Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch issued a statement on May 30 stating, “We believe the result of the bill will be a marked reduction in a large backlog of cases yet to be heard.” Read the entire statement [here](#).



## TIME TO REEVALUATE VOCATIONAL AND SKILLED TRADES TRAINING

On May 8, Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch voiced the dire need for vocational and skilled trades training in Illinois. We recognize that with the nation’s unemployment rate continuing to drop, labor markets are in an ever-tightening vice, and Illinois employers are feeling the pain as they try to fill middle-skill jobs. Read the full opinion piece [here](#).

**Daily Herald**



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In May, Illinois Chamber’s Vice President of Policy Benjamin Brockschmidt spoke to why Illinois needs to rethink how society advocates for transportation infrastructure.

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## RETHINK TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ADVOCACY

Illinois serves as a transportation hub for America further connecting our roads, waterways, railroads, global air travel and more. In May, Illinois Chamber’s Vice President of Policy Benjamin Brockschmidt spoke to why Illinois needs to rethink how society advocates for transportation infrastructure. Brockschmidt’s piece [here](#) was featured in *Illinois Field & Bean*, a publication by the Illinois Soybean Association.



## ILLINOIS 5TH LARGEST EXPORTER IN THE U.S.

On May 31, Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch conversed with *Illinois Business Daily* in a Q&A expressing the importance of trade and how to navigate tariffs and their potential consequences. Matters regarding trade affect our members immensely from how they do business to their influence on the local economy. Read the full Q&A [here](#).



## 10TH ANNUAL EDIE AWARDS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

On May 9, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce opened its nominations for the economic development awards in Illinois, the Edies. Awards are supported by IEDA and sponsored by Nicor Gas. The awards honor outstanding economic development projects completed in the calendar year of 2017 that imagine, design, invest, build and bring jobs, growth and prosperity to Illinois communities. Read more [here](#) to submit a nomination.

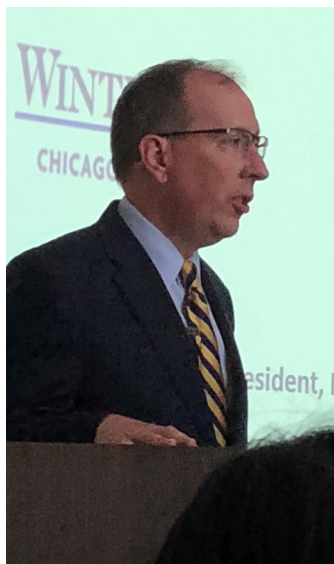
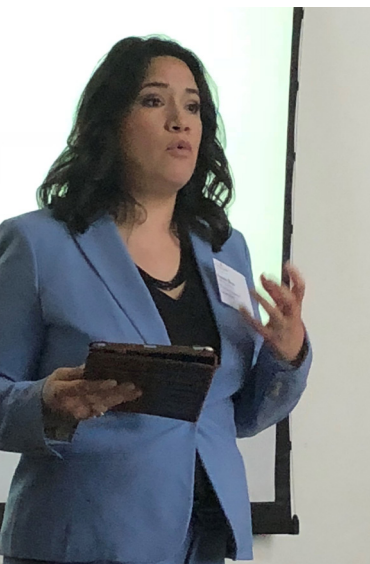




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Attendees at the export conference heard from key leaders in international trade and why it matters for Illinois.

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## DEVELOPING A 21ST CENTURY TRADE POLICY FOR ILLINOIS

On May 17, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce’s International Business Council held its annual exports conference *Global is Local: Developing a 21st Century Trade Policy for Illinois*. As one of the most diverse and globalized economies in the U.S., Illinois has benefited greatly from international trade. In 2016 nearly \$60 billion of goods and \$28 billion of services were exported by Illinois companies, making our state the largest exporter in the Midwest and the fifth largest in the country with international trade supporting more than 1.7 million jobs. Attendees at the conference heard from key leaders in international trade and why it matters for Illinois. (Pictured Susana Meza IBC Chairwoman and John Murphy Sr. President of International Policy from U.S. Chamber of Commerce.)





The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency held three meetings for public comment on the IEPA's draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan this May.



## PROMOTING A TECH-NEUTRAL POLICY TOWARD AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

On May 9, Illinois Chamber's Vice President of Policy and Executive Director of the Infrastructure Council Benjamin Brockschmidt testified in support of Illinois developing a technology neutral policy toward autonomous vehicles at the Illinois House Transportation Vehicles and Safety Committee. Additionally, the Chamber highlighted that this technology could help accompany existing transportation networks including transit.

## INVESTING IN NEW TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEAVY INDUSTRY

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency held three meetings for public comment on the IEPA's draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan this May. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce issued a statement applauding the IEPA of the plan and supporting the move to its implementation. Read the full statement [here](#).



# CHAMBER ADVOCACY



## IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of May, 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 ECONOMY & TAXES

- [Graduated income tax wrong for job creation and taxpayers](#)
- [The training shortfall for vocational, skilled trades](#)
  - [IL STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: The training shortfall for vocational, skilled trades](#)
- [Construction Companies Offered Tax Incentives Under House Plan](#)
- [Possible development for outlet mall 6 years after announcement](#)
- [Enterprise zones are useful incentives, but changes needed, some say - The Pantagraph](#)
  - [Enterprise zones useful, but need updates - Sauk Valley](#)
- [Businesses say equal pay will cost them](#)
- [As budget deadline looms, business community worries federal tax benefits could be targeted by state lawmakers](#)
- [Utility-backed bill affects Kankakee area](#)
- [Lawmakers OK Higher Tobacco Purchase Age](#)
  - [Illinois Poised to Raise Legal Age to Buy Tobacco – CSP Daily News](#)
- [Stuart sponsors legislation to help Illinois businesses](#)

### ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Illinois' dilemma: Billions in capital needs, but prospects dim for funding plan](#)
- [Rethink Transportation Infrastructure](#)

### ILLINOIS ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

- [Illinois Senate Passes Bill to Protect Environmental, Labor Standards](#)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce Accepting Nominations for 10th Annual Edie Awards Highlighting Outstanding Economic Development Projects](#)

### ILLINOIS TRADE

- [Q&A: Illinois Chamber of Commerce on tariffs](#)

### OTHER CHAMBER NEWS

- [Littelfuse Named One of the Best Places to Work in Illinois](#)
- [Wiley Education Services Named One of 2018's Best Places to Work...](#)