

ADVOCACY REPORT

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1919-2019

ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

CHAMBER OPPOSES GRADUATED INCOME TAX



On Wednesday, April 10, Todd Maisch, president and CEO of the Illinois Chamber, testified in opposition to a proposal to amend the state's constitution to permit a graduated income tax structure.

[Watch full video here.](#)

The Illinois Constitution currently forbids the imposition of a graduated income tax but Illinois legislators are looking to amend the constitution by raising taxes on the backs of entrepreneurs and small businesses - for the third time in nine years. The proposal, along with other legislation tied to a graduated income tax increase, was passed by the Senate on May 1.

The Illinois Chamber continues to reach out to members encouraging them to contact their state representative and ask them to VOTE NO on all legislation facilitating a graduated income tax.

To make this call to action easy, we have a ready-to-send grassroots action letter you can send to your state senator [here](#) or by [sharing this link](#).

It is also important to follow up your letter with a call to their district or Springfield office.



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

MAY 2019 | **ADVOCACY REPORT**

ILCHAMBER.ORG

CAPITAL CITY OFFICE
215 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701
217-522-5512

CHICAGO OFFICE
300 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60606
312-983-7100



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FIRST ILLINOIS-AZERBAIJAN AGRICULTURE FORUM HELD IN CHICAGO

On April 4, 2019, The United States-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Chamber of Commerce jointly hosted the first-ever inaugural Illinois-Azerbaijan Agriculture Forum in Chicago, IL.

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On April 3, 2019, within the framework of the inaugural Forum, the delegation headed by the minister visited AGCO GSI grain and protein facilities in Assumption and Taylorville, IL.

AGCO GSI, full-range grain, seed-processing and protein-production solutions acquainted the Azerbaijani delegation with all-encompassing manufacturing processes.

On April 4, 2019, the Illinois-Azerbaijan Agriculture Forum convened with the opening remarks by Reza Vaziri, Chairman, United States - Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce and Laura Ortega, Executive Director, International Business Council at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

The United States-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Chamber of Commerce agreed to convene the next forum in 2020, Baku, Azerbaijan.



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We appreciate Hanson Professional Services for hosting the meeting that focused on the specifics of the state’s highway conditions and a legislative update on capital discussion.

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TRANSPORTATION LOBBY DAY

Illinois Chamber Infrastructure Council Executive Director Rebecca Mason lead a group of transportation industry professionals around the capitol to meet with legislators about the importance of investing in Illinois infrastructure as part of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC) Lobby Day on April 3.



MEETING FOCUSES ON HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

Thank you to BNSF Railway for sponsoring the Infrastructure Council’s quarterly meeting on April 4. Sponsorship not only ensures the meeting can take place, but also supports the Infrastructure Council’s activities promoting the importance of transportation in Illinois throughout the year. BNSF is a vital member that operates one of the largest freight railroad networks in North America, with 32,500 miles of rail across the western two-thirds of the United States.

We appreciate Hanson Professional Services for hosting the meeting that focused on the specifics of the state’s highway conditions and a legislative update on capital discussion.

Director of Highway Project Implementation at Illinois Department of Transportation Paul Loete spoke about the condition of the state’s infrastructure and the planned transition to an asset management system for prioritizing projects.





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Innovation Day at the Illinois Governor’s Mansion focused on the importance of research and development, entrepreneurship, and innovation to keep Illinois advancing forward.

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GOVERNOR DECLARES APRIL 12 AS INNOVATION DAY



Tyler Diers, director of legislative relations at the Illinois Chamber, joined groups representing Illinois’ innovation economy for Governor JB Pritzker’s declaration of April 12 as Innovation Day in Illinois. The event at the Illinois Governor’s Mansion focused on the importance of research and development, entrepreneurship, and innovation to keep Illinois advancing forward. #ILInnoDay



SB 1829 PROVIDES MORE PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Jay Shattuck, executive director of the Employment Law Council at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, spoke at the press conference of Senator Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake) on SB 1829, an omnibus bill to provide greater protection from sexual harassment in the workplace. “We participated in an open and thoughtful process, and we provided language we believe will help make a better workplace environment for employers and employees in Illinois,” Shattuck said.



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The Illinois Chamber hit the road to talk about the need for transportation funding meeting with journalists and editorial boards throughout the state.

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CAPITOL CONNECTION WITH MASON

Rebecca Mason, executive director of the Infrastructure Council at the Illinois Chamber and Marc Poulos, executive director of the ILL FFC, sat down with Mark Maxwell on WCIA’s Capitol Connection to discuss the immediate, imperative need for transportation modernization in Illinois.

[Watch full interview here.](#)



TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

The Illinois Chamber hit the road to talk about the need for transportation funding meeting with journalists and editorial boards throughout the state. You can read more about the Illinois Chamber’s transportation modernization program that has been introduced in both houses in President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber Todd Maisch’s editorial board interviews in the [Daily Herald](#) and [Quincy-Herald Whig](#).

“...it no longer is a matter of whether tragedy will strike. Without a solution, it’s inevitable, and in addition to the billions of dollars to repair and rebuild, it will cost human lives.”

–From the Herald-Whig



Daily Herald

HERALD-WHIG



“Taxing healthcare to get more federal funds to cover Medicaid isn’t going to result in more affordable healthcare options for the everyday worker,” Winters said.



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR ILLINOIS

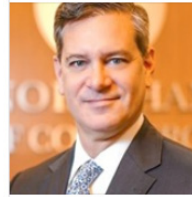
The Illinois Chamber’s Tech Council held their quarterly meeting at Cameo in Chicago on April 25. Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology Secretary and state CIO Ron Guerrier presented his plan for digitally transforming the state of Illinois.



DATA PRIVACY IMPACTS STATE EXPANSION

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch wrote an op-ed for the State Journal Register on the dangers overreaching state data privacy laws can be to growing businesses.

[Read full article here.](#)



SJ-R.COM
Illinois Chamber: California's bad privacy law should stay California's problem
 In recent two wor...

Executive Director of the Innovation and Technology Council at the Chamber Tyler Diers was quoted in a recent article on how far is too far concerning data privacy. “This kind of legislation threatens the expansion of the growing digital economy that is so critical to the success of Illinois businesses, both global leaders and locally owned and operated, that are using the internet to expand.”

[Read full article here.](#)



Alton Daily News.com
Your daily source for local news in the River Bend

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the months of April, 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

- [Chicago's Incoming Mayor Faces Revenue Reckoning](#)
- [Push to raise smoking age to 21 catches fire at state level](#)
- [New Tobacco 21 law gets rid of penalties for underage possession](#)
- [Illinois newspapers weigh in on the gas tax, age limits on tobacco purchases, "fair tax"](#)

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT

- [ILLINOIS STATE SENATE DISTRICT 31: Bush fights to protect victims, targets sexual harassment in the private sector](#)

ILLINOIS HEALTHCARE

- [Frustrated by health insurance price hikes? Bill would allow Illinois to restrict them](#)

ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Lives depend on passage of HB 3823](#)
- [Guest editorial: Lives depend on passage of HB 3823](#)
- [Lives depend on passage of HB 3823](#)

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL

- [Dr. Emin Huseynov meets with USACC members & partner organizations](#)

ILLINOIS TAX

- [Considering a 'Progressive' Income Tax in a Fiscally-Stressed State](#)
- [Graduated Income Tax Inches Forward](#)
- [Illinois Senate committee OKs graduated income tax measure](#)
- [Senate scheduled to hear reading of graduated income tax amendment](#)
- [Progressive income tax plan clears first hurdle](#)
- [Proposed amendment would remove prohibition on multiple income taxes](#)
- [Progressive Tax Plan Faces Full Senate Vote](#)
- ["Fair tax" amendment would enable new types of income taxes](#)
- [Illinois Senate Committee backs package with new income tax rates, school property tax freeze](#)
- [Senate Committee backs package with new income tax rates, school property tax freeze](#)
- [New proposed progressive tax rates higher for some high earners than Pritzker's proposed rates](#)

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ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY

- [Lawmakers May Consider Digital Privacy Bill](#)
- [State lawmakers could consider digital privacy measures when they return](#)
- [Illinois Chamber: California's bad privacy law should stay California's problem](#)

ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION

- [Unlikely Allies Backing Plan to Raise Gas Tax to Fund Transportation](#)
- [High-profile Republican says raising the gas tax would be good for Illinois' future](#)

OTHER CHAMBER NEWS

- [CHAMBER COLUMN: Illinois Chamber of Commerce celebrates 100 years](#)
- [Pot, taxes and more on Illinois lawmakers' list this week](#)