

ADVOCACY REPORT



ILLINOIS CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

ILLINOIS NEEDS TARGETED STRATEGY ON TRADE

“The state’s top business group was less enthusiastic. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce urged the president to ‘consider not only the new steel jobs he celebrates today, but the potential job losses ...’”

—Chicago Tribune

Thursday, July 26, President Trump visited Granite City to discuss steel and aluminum tariffs at the reopening of a U.S. steel plant. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce was deemed “the state’s top business group” by the Chicago Tribune and urged the president to “consider not only the new steel jobs he celebrates today, but the potential job losses and jobs that never get created as a result of the tariff battle now underway with our trading partners.”

Read the Illinois Chamber’s full statement [here](#) and the Chicago Tribune article on the matter [here](#).

Chicago Tribune



NAVIGATING CYBER THREATS KEY TO BIZ SUCCESS

On July 24, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to hold a cybersecurity conference in Chicago. Increasingly so, in business, understanding cybersecurity is crucial to success. Collaboration and communication between government entities and the private sector is essential to effectively combating cyber threats. This event brought together public and private entities to discuss policy and best practices in cybersecurity to help businesses be prepared for whatever the future brings for businesses of all sizes. We thank all of the speakers and sponsors of the event that made it a success.

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

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Illinois cannot afford another burdensome regulation on small businesses that are already closing their doors and leaving this state due to the current long list of regulations.

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ACYPL, CHAMBER DIVE INTO ECONOMICS

On July 31, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce hosted the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) to discuss how chambers interact and serve as strategic tools for business advancement, the state's overall economic potential, as well as, trade and strategic partnerships.

SEND GOOD NEWS TO SMALL BUSINESS, VETO HB 4572

On July 30, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce released a statement on HB 4572 that sends a negative signal to small businesses considering to locate or expand in Illinois. Illinois cannot afford another burdensome regulation on small businesses that are already closing their doors and leaving this state due to the current long list of regulations. A veto of HB 4572 by Governor Rauner is imperative to small businesses. Read the full statement [here](#).



IBC HOSTS US-SOUTH AFRICA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

On July 16, Illinois Chamber of Commerce's International Business Council in collaboration with the Consulate General of South Africa hosted H.E. M.J. Mahlangu South African Ambassador to The United States at an Executive Business Roundtable in Chicago. According to the United States Trade Representative, South Africa is currently our 39th largest goods trading partner. The roundtable discussed key matters regarding exports, imports, trade balance and investment.



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Data centers are economically beneficial to the areas where they locate, adding construction and contracting jobs, plus permanent positions at the facilities. — Ben Brockschmidt

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DATA CENTERS BOOST ECONOMY

Illinois Chamber of Commerce’s Vice President of Policy Benjamin Brockschmidt spoke with the Chicago Tribune on data centers earlier this month. “Data centers are economically beneficial to the areas where they locate, adding construction and contracting jobs, plus permanent positions at the facilities, he said. They also produce local infrastructure improvements such as power and telecommunications access, which can benefit other businesses in the area.” Read the entire news coverage [here](#).

STAATS DECRYPTS GRADUATED INCOME TAXES

In Illinois CPA Society Insight Magazine Illinois Chamber’s Executive Director of the Tax Institute Keith Staats helps decode the math behind the proposed graduated income tax plans. Staats estimates “the proponents of graduated income tax rates are mistaken if they think they can solve state spending imbalances without taxing the middle class.” Read the full column [here](#).

INSIGHT

TAX DECODED

Grappling With Graduated Income Taxes

Let's decode the math behind proposed graduated income tax plans.



ABOUT

Keith Staats, JD

Executive Director, Illinois Chamber Tax Institute

Deciphering Today's State & Federal Tax Law

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of July, 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 TECHNOLOGY

- [Demand for data centers is insatiable, but can Illinois keep up?](#)
 - [With an insatiable demand for data centers, some are worried Illinois can't keep up, Virginian Pilot](#)
 - [Can Illinois Lure Data Centers Without Incentives?, Government Technology](#)

ILLINOIS TRADE & TARIFFS

- [US Chamber: \\$3.8 Billion Worth of Illinois Goods Threatened by Trade War](#)
- [Trump Touts Trade Win In Illinois Steel Town](#)
 - [Trump claims 'great victory' at Downstate steel plant in first visit to Illinois since taking office, Chicago Tribune](#)
 - [Trump touts trade win in Illinois steel town as others lose, St. Louis News](#)
 - [Trump tariffs get mixed reaction from Illinois business, Peoria Journal Star](#)
 - [Trump touts trade win in Illinois steel town as others lose, Daily Herald](#)
 - [Coca-Cola prices go up in US due to Trump tariffs, Metro](#)
 - [WATCH: Trump visits Granite City to talk trade policy, The Pantagraph](#)
 - [Trump touts trade win in Illinois steel town as others lose, Missouriian](#)
 - [Trump touts tariffs in Illinois, where many workers lose, Capitol Hill Blue](#)
 - [Trump touts trade win in Illinois steel town as others lose, AlbuquerqueJournal](#)
 - [Trump to tout trade win in Illinois steel town as others lose, State Journal-Register](#)

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT LAW LEGISLATION

- [Small business advocates warn anti-discrimination measure could mean more litigation](#)
 - [Illinois Chamber of Commerce Urges Governor Rauner To Veto HB 4572, Effingham Radio](#)
 - [Small business concerns over Human Rights Amendment, News Channel 20](#)
- [Bills to overhaul worker's compensation in Illinois still alive despite vocal opposition](#)

ILLINOIS ECONOMY

- [Illinois legislature investigates 'no compete' clauses in fast food hiring practices](#)
 - [AG examines fast food employment practices, WCIA](#)

OTHER CHAMBER NEWS

- [Mattoon Chamber of Commerce continues to work with the city](#)
- [River Forest resident named chair of Illinois Chamber of Commerce board](#)