

ADVOCACY REPORT

100
1919-2019

ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

CHAMBER HELPS AWARD LOCAL LEGISLATORS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO INFRASTRUCTURE



Chamber staff joined the Transportation for Illinois Coalition and other stakeholders for an award presentation for State Rep Sue Scherer and State Representative Mike Marron in recognition of their support for Illinois' transportation infrastructure hosted at ADM on August 1. ADM employs 4,000 people in Decatur alone and relies on the intersection of three major railroads and easy access to three Interstates to bring raw materials to their plants and then ship the finished product to market.

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2019 | **ADVOCACY REPORT**



A hundred years ago, in 1919, Illinois, America and the world were changing in every way.



CHAMBER CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY ON AUGUST 2

100 | ILLINOIS
1919-2019 | CHAMBER



Happy 100th Birthday to all our members working to make Illinois a better place, and cheers to 100 more.

A hundred years ago, in 1919, Illinois, America and the world were changing in every way. World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, and Congress recognized women's right to vote.

The gambling 'Black Sox' disgraced America's pastime and scorned a city. Murderous race riots tore families, businesses, and Illinois apart, raising awareness of African American Illinoisans' struggles in the face of racism and hate.

Prohibition became the law of the land, the genius Einstein's theory of general relativity was confirmed, and you could buy a pound of butter for about 65 cents. Business and technology were booming. The Radio Corporation of America was formed, the first dial telephones were installed, and the practice of 'cross-selling' was added to the English dictionary.

In 1919, amid a flurry of change and choice, 24 industry leaders from around the state gathered together in Quincy to figure out how to best promote and protect the business climate in Illinois.

As a result on August 2, 1919, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce was officially chartered by our Secretary of State, uniting the voices of Illinois business.

As we celebrate our centennial birthday, we think of all that has changed over a century and all that has stayed the same. Illinois is still the heart, breadbasket and transportation hub of the United States. Our people are still reformers, innovators, scholars and dreamers. Our businesses continue to create jobs, products and opportunities for people throughout the world. And, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce continues to fight for stronger business and a stronger Illinois.



Illinois has encouraged investment by adding an additional enhanced income tax credit for new data center construction in underserved areas, providing the opportunity for property tax revenues and economic growth for communities that need it the most.



– Todd Maisch on technology, Crain’s

TEC NATION SERIES COMES TO ILLINOIS

Illinois Chamber’s Technology Council teamed up with the US Chamber’s C_Tech to bring the Tec Nation series to Chicago on August 15. Hosted at the technology incubator 1871, this half day event highlighted the positive aspects of data collection and technology. Topics included Artificial Intelligence in the workplace, how 5G will change commerce, the need for federal data privacy legislation, Illinois’ biometric law, and how Illinois’ leaders are closing the skills gap.

Missed the event? No worries. Members can [watch the recorded webcast here](#).

(Pictured below: left to right) Angie Fry of Verizon, Jamie Ponce of Tech City Collaborative, Brad Lane of AT&T and Tyler Diers from the Illinois Chamber participate in a panel discussion on 5G infrastructure at 1871 in Chicago on August 15.



ILLINOIS CHAMBER TEAMS UP WITH US CHAMBER FOR TECHNOLOGY OP ED

President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber Todd Maisch and SVP of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Technology and Engagement Center Tim Day teamed up on an op-ed for Crain’s Chicago Business commending Governor JB Pritzker’s signing of Illinois’ data center incentive this summer and encouraging more efforts for growth in our digital technology sector published on August 19.

[Read full article here.](#)

CRAIN’S CHICAGO BUSINESS.

Illinois data centers: Powering economic growth and opportunity

This summer, the governor signed a data center incentive into law, opening up Illinois for what could be hundreds of millions of investment dollars in the state. Here’s what he should do next.

TIM DAY
TODD MAISCH

TWITTER SHARE LINKEDIN SHARE EMAIL PRINT





“

This facility [Chicago data center] is a testament to the type of investment and jobs that will be unleashed across our state as a result of the enactment of recently signed data center tax legislation.

”



CHAMBER JOINS MEMBER CORESITE IN RAISING THE FINAL BEAM AT THE CHICAGO DATACENTER

Chamber member CoreSite hosted Executive Director of the Technology and Innovation Council Tyler Diers and other Chamber staff in celebrating the raising of their final steel beam at their new downtown Chicago data center on August 8. This facility is a testament to the type of investment and jobs that will be unleashed across our state as a result of the enactment of recently signed data center tax legislation.

(Pictured above: left to right) The Chamber's Joan Olivier, Ella Walsh and Tyler Diers with Coresite's Ben Green at Coresite's new data center in Chicago on August 8.





“

The bridge, which carries 170,000 vehicles a day, is an example of the type of infrastructure investment that will be made in many locations across Illinois as a result of the transportation modernization package Rep. Conroy supported this past session.

”

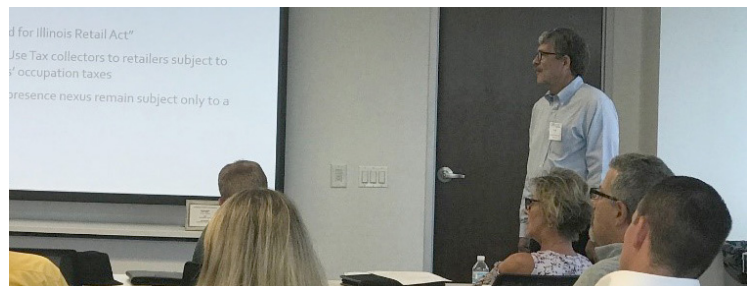
BRIDGE OVER SALT CREEK PART OF ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Illinois State Representative Deb Conroy met members of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, including Executive Director of the Infrastructure Council at the Chamber Rebecca Mason, for a tour of the I-290 bridge over Salt Creek in Addison on August 20. The bridge, which carries 170,000 vehicles a day, is an example of the type of infrastructure investment that will be made in many locations across Illinois as a result of the transportation modernization package Rep. Conroy supported this past session.



TAX LAW UPDATES

Executive Director of the Illinois Chamber Tax Institute Keith Staats (*pictured*) joined Joe Bigane with JFB Tax Consulting, and Paul Bogdanski with ReedSmith to update attendees on significant changes to Illinois tax laws at a seminar at the Chamber's Chicago office on August 14.





“

Chamber member Archer Daniels Midland received the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award on August 23 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

”

ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FREEDOM AWARD IN D.C.

Vice President of Business Services at the Illinois Chamber Laurie Silvey joined in a ceremony where Chamber member Archer Daniels Midland received the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award on August 23 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Only 15 companies across the United States are selected to receive this award each year.



ESGR Illinois State Chair Ron Bacci, Manager of PF Talent at ADM Dean Espenschied, Vice President of Global Relations at ADM Veronica Braker, Agricultural Services at ADM Army Reserve Major Andrew Marchese who nominated the company and his wife Jennifer Marchese, and ESGR Incoming Illinois State Chair and President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Center for Business Management Laurie Silvey

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of August, 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 ENERGY

- [Governor signs new coal-ash rules, restrictions into law](#) – Chamber / Todd Maisch quoted
— [Governor signs new coal-ash rules, restrictions into law](#)

ILLINOIS ECONOMY

- [New laws aim to protect law enforcement, roadside workers](#) – Chamber mentioned on SB 9
- [Whiteside County Economic Development hosts Illinois legislative update](#) – Tyler Diers mentioned
- [Capitol Recap: A look at recent legislative action in Springfield](#)
- [Capitol Cast: A podcast about state issues](#) – Todd Maisch interviewed

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT

- [New law will bar Illinois employers from asking job applicants for pay history](#) – Chamber mentioned
— [Gov. J.B. Pritzker signs bill banning employers from asking about salary history](#)

ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY

- [Illinois data centers: Powering economic growth and opportunity](#) – by Todd Maisch of the Illinois Chamber and Tim Day of the US Chamber

Chamber member **Archer Daniels Midland** announced their \$2.5 million dollar donation to assist the construction of a new Feed Technology Center at the University of Illinois on August 29.

[Read more here.](#)

Chamber member **Uber** announced the signing of a 10-year lease for 450,000 square feet of office space in the Old Post Office on August 19.

[Read more here.](#)

Chamber member **Ameren Illinois** announced they will be investing \$5.5 million in modernizing natural gas systems in Springfield on August 9.

[Read more here.](#)

Chamber member **AT&T** announced their investment of more than \$7.2 billion in its Illinois wireless and wired networks during 2011-2018 on August 6.

[Read more here.](#)

Chamber member **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois** announced it has leased a nearly 130,000-square-foot space on Chicago's southside and will be bringing some 550 jobs to the community on August 6.

[Read more here.](#)

