

ADVOCACY REPORT



ILLINOIS CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

KEEPING ILLINOIS A LEADER IN INNOVATION



Within the last year, the Illinois General Assembly has seen a lot of activity in the area of privacy and data security. “When crafting the next privacy law, policymakers need to strike the right balance between privacy and productivity gains offered by modern technology. A collaborative public-private approach, led by industry together with government, is the most feasible way to develop a framework of data privacy standards tailored to our needs,” says Tyler Diers, Director of Legislative Relations for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Read the entire [article here](#).

Daily Herald



MOVING ILLINOIS FORWARD WITH FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

Benjamin Brockschmidt, Vice President of Policy and Executive Director of the Infrastructure Council participated in a press conference with Governor Bruce Rauner, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Alec Messina, and others to announce the first part of distributing funds allocated to Illinois from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust. Illinois’ initial allocation of funds is \$108 million to be used to fund mobile source projects with all funds to be used for projects that reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides in Illinois. The Chamber worked closely with environmental groups and other business organizations to ensure that the first steps of the plan reduce necessary emissions but help move Illinois forward.

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



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STONEWATER ADDRESSES SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



Energy Council Executive Director Katie Stonewater gave a lecture at the University of Illinois-Chicago Summer Institute on Sustainable Energy (SISE). SISE is a two-week long seminar designed to provide the next generation of professionals the multi-disciplinary knowledge and experience to address the rapid changes facing the energy industry and society. Katie gave a civics lecture to the students in the context of energy policy, speaking to how government works, how it impacts them, and why they should be engaged. The lecture challenged students to understand how they can and should work with government to advance their business and policy goals, and the most appropriate ways to achieve that.

CHAMBER CALLS FOR ACTION BY GOVERNOR RAUNER

The Illinois Chamber requested Governor Rauner act on 14 pieces of legislation from Spring session. Three actions that stood out included his amendatory veto on SB 904 (Hastings/Hoffman). This bill would have allowed medical providers to pursue a 1% per month interest penalty on unpaid workers' compensation medical bills in circuit court. While there were elements of the legislation that merit attention, other provisions will work against the employer community in assuring medical services are necessary and the charges are reasonable.

The Governor also granted the Chamber's recommendation to amendatorily veto SB 2921 (Cunningham/Welch). This bill would have diverted \$5 million out of the unclaimed property funds to purchase and renovate a building. Idle dollars in the unclaimed property fund are earmarked to pay back state pension debt.

Lastly, the Governor did not sign SB 1737(Munoz/Hoffman), a bill advocated by the Chamber. Among other things, SB 1737 would have updated the captive insurance regulatory structure to help Illinois overcome its competitive disadvantage in this area. The Governor's amendatory veto eliminated from the bill various workers' compensation rate regulation changes and the new regulation of short-term health insurance policies. To view a complete list of bills the Chamber requested action on, [click here](#).



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NAPERVILLE CHAMBER INVITES BROCKSCHMIDT ON “INSIDE THE CHAMBER”

Illinois Chamber of Commerce’s Vice President of Policy and Executive Director of the Infrastructure Council, Benjamin Brockschmidt, participated in a discussion on “Inside the Chamber,” a partnership with the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. He spoke on the importance of pro-business and pro-immigrant policies. Look for the episode to air in October!



CENTRAL ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR

Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC) held their first tour of Illinois infrastructure challenges for legislative champions. Illinois Chamber of Commerce’s President and CEO Todd Maisch was in attendance on August 9th. The tour looked at an aging local bridge that carries significant agricultural traffic, a local quarry, the Altorfer CAT dealership in Springfield, and took the legislators for a ride in a semi. The condition of the roads was incorporated throughout the tour to highlight the pavement condition challenges in the area.

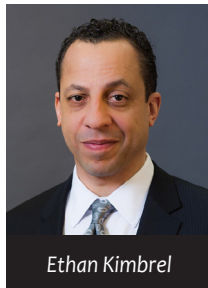




The Edies honor outstanding economic development projects completed in the calendar year of 2017 that bring jobs, growth and prosperity to Illinois communities.



Congressman Mike Quigley



Ethan Kimbrel



Doug Scott

ENERGY COUNCIL HOSTS GUEST SPEAKERS AT SUMMER MEETING

The Energy Council held its summer meeting in Chicago, welcoming Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5), ICC Commissioner Ethan Kimbrel, and former EPA Director and ICC Chairman Doug Scott. Congressman Quigley focused on the importance of finding common ground and the value of compromise when governing despite our current climate and expanded on the climate change conversation in Washington and Chicago. Director Scott spoke about carbon pricing efforts in the U.S., noting the demand from consumers to buy products that have less carbon. ICC Commissioner Kimbrel did not give any remarks but attended to learn more about the Energy Council and the issues the Council is focused on.

2018 EDIE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Illinois Economic Development Association (IEDA) released the names of the winners of the 10th Annual Economic Development in Illinois Awards – the Edies. The Edies honor outstanding economic development projects completed in the calendar year of 2017 that bring jobs, growth and prosperity to Illinois communities. See full press release [here](#).



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 ECONOMY

- [Small business advocates fret anti-discrimination measure](#)
 - [Biz, civil rights groups put Rauner in middle of anti-discrimination fight](#)
 - [Small business advocates warn anti-discrimination measure could mean more litigation](#)
- [Morning Spin: Rauner gives decisions about liquor sales near schools to local officials](#)
- [How to save on back to school in Illinois without tax-free weekend](#)
 - [Here's why Illinois doesn't have a back-to-school tax free shopping weekend](#)
- [Homewood announces 2018 Hall of Fame inductees](#)
- [Illinois Set to Pass Bill Banning Small Businesses From Discriminating Against LGBTQ Workers](#)
- [John Boos & Co receives economic development award](#)
- [ICC helping small businesses offer better employee benefits](#)
- [White Oaks Mall's anchor stores closing - what now?](#)
- [Schaumburg Celebrates Edie Award Achievements for Third Consecutive Year](#)
- [Schaumburg wins Edie Award from Illinois Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Treasurer: Rauner veto will hamper recovery of unclaimed property](#)
- [Frerichs accuses Rauner of mismanagement over blocked building deal](#)

ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY

- [Smart tech policy warrants Illinois' economic triumph](#)