

ADVOCACY REPORT

100
1919-2019

ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

NEGOTIATIONS AT THE STATEHOUSE



Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch was interviewed by Mark Maxwell of WCIA on ongoing legislative negotiations at the Statehouse on May 20.



Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch testified before the House Revenue Committee on Transportation on the need for a transportation modernization program and discussed concerns about HB 391. A capital program, including some of the Chamber's championed pro-business reforms, was successfully passed in the last days of session.

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

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Illinois Chamber Director of Legislative Relations Tyler Diers joined legislators and other stakeholders in calling for a data center incentive to encourage growth in Illinois on May 22.

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[View End of Session Report Here](#)

2019 SPRING END OF SESSION REPORT

What started out as a disastrous session for employers ended on a positive note with the Chamber securing last minute victories for its members. Two of the first six bills signed into law this year by the governor were major blows to the business community.

The very first law signed by the governor raised the statewide minimum wage to \$15 an hour, while the other added to employers' costs to the state's workers' compensation system. However, as session progressed, more troublesome legislation such as costly data privacy regulations and a proposal to threaten our petroleum refineries were laid to rest.

In the final days of session, a deal was cut between the four legislative leaders and the governor to pass major pieces of legislation in combination for several business reforms. In addition, the Chamber secured its major policy victory for the year, a capital infrastructure program.

Despite ongoing efforts to amend our state's income tax system in the 2020 election, the Chamber received meaningful victories and looks forward to carrying the momentum into the next legislative session. This list does not encompass the entire list of bills tracked by the Chamber's Government Affairs Team, but rather represents the major pertinent pieces of legislation.



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DATA CENTER LEGISLATION PASSES IN FINAL DAYS

Illinois Chamber Director of Legislative Relations Tyler Diers joined legislators and other stakeholders in calling for a data center incentive to encourage growth in Illinois on May 22. The incentive was successfully passed in the last days of session.



TRANSPORTATION PROPOSALS OUTLINED

Rebecca Mason, executive director of the Infrastructure Council at the Illinois Chamber, was interviewed by Greg Bishop of the Illinois News Network, on details of the Chamber's transportation modernization proposal on May 7, outside a transportation hearing in Springfield.



CHAMBER WEIGHS IN ON ENERGY

Katie Stonewater, executive director of the Energy Council at the Illinois Chamber, testified before the Senate Environment and Conservation Committee on SR 419 regarding green house gas emissions on May 2.



ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

Executive Director of IERG Alec Davis testifies before the House Energy Environment Committee in on SB 9, concerning coal ash clean-up, on May 16.



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These exchanges served as a foundation on which to establish sustainable two-way partnerships between the fellows and American counterparts, with the goal of promoting and strengthening civil society, good governance, mutual understanding and friendship.

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DISCUSSIONS ON RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

Jay Shattuck, executive director of the Workforce Council at the Illinois Chamber, testified before the Senate Executive Committee on recreational cannabis on May 15. While the Chamber questions whether recreational cannabis is the right direction for the state, the bill that passed includes the strongest workplace protections in the country.



CHAMBER WELCOMES PARTNERSHIP WITH VIETNAM

This year, the Illinois Chamber participated in the US State Department's American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) program that is part of The White House Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). The Chamber hosted Nguyen Tran Dieu My (pronounced M-e), a woman from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, as our Young Fellow. During her four week stay in Chicago, she was exposed to various programs and meetings with the Illinois Chamber and met many of its members.

My worked on her project of developing clear paths for small to medium businesses to navigate government agencies and tools to foster start-ups in Vietnam and how to expand internationally. My also spent time in Springfield shadowing the Chamber's government affairs team, meeting legislators and toured the capitol. These exchanges served as a foundation to establish sustainable two-way partnerships between the fellows and American counterparts, with the goal of promoting and strengthening civil society, good governance, mutual understanding and friendship.

Nguyen Tran Dieu My was interviewed by Whitney Barnes, director of communication and advocacy at the Chamber in a video that will be shared with My and on Chamber platforms.



The International Business Council hosted their 5th annual exports conference – Growth and Exposure in 2019: A Guide to Export Diversification at the Library in Chicago on May 22.



TWO MINUTE DRILL INVITES REP. MCDERMED

Chamber staff filmed a special guest edition of the Two Minute Drill with Illinois State Representative Margo McDermed (R-Mokena). The video that, included a transportation update on the ongoing capital discussions, was sent out to membership and shared on Chamber media platforms on May 20.

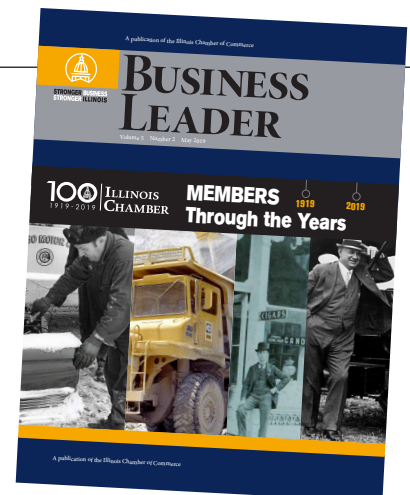


EXPORTS CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON GROWTH AND EXPOSURE

The International Business Council hosted their 5th annual exports conference – Growth and Exposure in 2019: A Guide to Export Diversification at the Library in Chicago on May 22. Laura Ortega, executive director of the International Business Council, hosted the event.

MAY 2019 BUSINESS LEADER MAGAZINE

This issue of *Business Leader Magazine* some of our long-term Chamber members share about their relationship with the Chamber over time. There is also a story on the Chicago Bears, who, like the Chamber, are celebrating 100 years in Illinois. It also covers the Chamber's second annual Women in Business Conference that brought together women from across many industries to share information and encourage success. Finally, we will hear from Senior Vice President (SVP) Digital Sales & Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) at IBM, who will be our keynote speaker at the Chamber's Annual Luncheon in September. [Available online here.](#)





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We think that this TRIP report shows that doing nothing is actually much more expensive than coming up with a solution together.

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—Whitney Barnes on the TRIP transportation report co-released by the Chamber



CHAMBER TEAMS UP WITH TRIP

The Illinois Chamber teamed up with TRIP to release a report on the cost of Illinois' current infrastructure. Candance Gerritsen, COO at the Chamber, hosted a press conference TRIP and other stakeholders in Chicago, while Whitney Barnes, director of communication and advocacy at the Chamber, lead a simultaneous press conference in Springfield on May 15.



SEN. DEWITT TALKS TRANSPORTATION

Chamber staff interviewed Illinois State Senator Don Dewitte (R-St. Charles) on his minority leadership role in transportation for a video published on May 30. The senator's video was shared on the Chamber's media channels and in the Infrastructure Council newsletter.

The Chamber's Director of Legislative Relations Tyler Diers sat down with Sam Madonia on Sports Radio 1450 to discuss technology issues and other hot topics this session. [Click here to listen and let us know what you think.](#)





“We’re looking at this as an investment and so not only do you spend less hopefully in the long run, but you also get to work, school, faster and spend time with your family.”

—Rebecca Mason on capital



“...it was a demonstration where when the General Assembly sits down in a bipartisan way with business and industry, we can get things worked out.”

—Jay Shattuck on sexual harassment legislation



“The proposal now contains the strongest ‘workplace protections’ in the nation.”

—Todd Maisch on recreational cannabis legislation



“The graduated income tax is a very bad idea, proposed at the wrong time. It sends the message to job creators that the General Assembly believes there will never be enough revenue to meet their appetite for spending.”

—Todd Maisch on graduated income tax legislation



“We encourage our legislators to take the results of this report seriously and take swift action on a bipartisan basis in a transportation modernization program in the next two weeks.”

—Candance Gerritsen on Illinois’ infrastructure needs

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the months 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

- [Guard honors 3 Passavant employees](#) (Laurie Silvey pictured)
- [Here's what lawmakers have been up to in Springfield this week](#) (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Dieterich Bank Named a 2019 Best Places to Work in Illinois](#)
- [Statehouse leaders meet to hash out key issues](#)
- [New federal bill would raise minimum age to buy tobacco, vape products to 21](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)
- [Illinois Senate passes marijuana legalization bill](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)
- [Springfield's most momentous legislative session in decades](#) (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Budget Done – Building And Gambling Plans To Go](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT

- [Wage payment bill opens door for abuse, says ICC](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)
- [Changes likely coming to state's cannabis legalization bill](#) – Nowicki (Jay Shattuck quoted)

ILLINOIS CAPITAL BILL

- [InTransit: Should electric-car owners pay higher state fees?](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)
- [House committee approves gas tax hike](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted) (multiple reprints)
- [Bipartisan support seen for higher Illinois gas tax](#) – Nowicki / Morgan *
- [Gas Tax Proposal Turns Into Regional Fight](#) (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Even as negotiations continue, Illinois gas tax debate heats up](#) – Bishop (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
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- [Gas Tax Proposal Turns Into Regional Fight](#) (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Illinois Bill Would More Than Double Gas and Diesel Taxes](#) – Oller (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Illinoisans may be facing major pain at the pump](#) – Gazette Eboard (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Gas taxes and driver's license fees would go up dramatically under Illinois Senate proposal](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)
 - [Gas taxes would more than double under Illinois Senate transportation proposal](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)
 - [Group touts plan to raise gas tax, fees for road and bridge projects](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted)
 - [State lawmakers at odds over capital bill funding](#) (Todd Maisch Quoted) (multiple reprints)
- [Multiple proposals to raise state gas tax draw ire from convenience store group](#) (Rebecca Mason quoted)
 - [Gas tax hike talk draws ire from groups](#)(Rebecca Mason quoted) (reprint multiple places)
- [Illinois lawmaker proposes dramatic increases to gas tax, driver's license fees](#) (Illinois Chamber mentioned)

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the months 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.

- [State gas tax would double under Illinois plan to fix roads, bridges](#) (reprint multiple places)
- [Poor Conditions on Illinois Roads Costing Motorists Big Money, Study Says](#) – Wojciechowski (Whitney Barnes mentioned)
- [Bad roads cause \\$18 billion in damage, waste in Illinois](#) – Finke (Whitney Barnes quoted)
- [Illinois infrastructure is costing you big money](#) – Baichwal (Candace Gerritsen quoted)
- [Study: Bad Illinois Roads Costing Drivers Millions, Wasted Time](#) – DeSantis
- [Report: Bad Roads Cost Illinois Drivers \\$18.3bn](#) – Hansen (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [ILLINOIS CAN SPEND ANOTHER \\$10B ON INFRASTRUCTURE WITHOUT TAX HIKES](#) – Schuster (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Bad roads cost Springfield drivers \\$1,300 a year](#) – Droze (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Illinois Motorists Lose \\$18.3 Billion Per Year on Rough, Congested Roads](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Governor defends slew of proposed tax increases to fund infrastructure plan](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Leaders ‘close’ on budget agreement as GOP says ‘details’ lacking on capital plan](#)

ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Gov. Pritzker Releases Public Works Plan](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)

ILLINOIS TAX

- [Graduated income tax bill goes to House](#) (Illinois Chamber mentioned)
- [Property tax relief becomes sticking point in Illinois’ progressive tax debate](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Pritzker Proposes Massive Building Plan, And The Tax Increases To Pay For It](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [More Debate on Progressive Tax](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce warns progressive tax plan could open door for further tax code changes](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Voters to decide on Pritzker’s graduated income tax in 2020](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Illinois moves closer to graduated income tax](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Chamber of Commerce Warns of Tricks](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)
- [Illinois Chamber statement on graduated income tax legislation](#) (Todd Maisch quoted)

ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY

- [Business, labor groups ask for data center tax incentives](#) (Tyler Diers quoted)
 - [Business and labor groups push lawmakers to pass tax incentives for data centers](#) (Tyler Diers quoted)
- [Lawmakers join labor, business in call for data center tax incentives](#) (Tyler Diers quoted)