

ADVOCACY REPORT



ILLINOIS CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL HOSTS THE WORLD



Chilean Food Ingredient Industry Business Briefing/Networking

On November 5, the International Business Council partnered with the Trade Commission of Chile in Chicago to bring a delegation of seven Chilean companies from the food ingredient industry seeking to do business in the Midwest region.

The Japan-US Economic Partnership Series

Also on November 5, the International Business Council, in partnership with Jetro, the Japanese External Trade Office in Chicago, hosted a private meeting with the Investment Promotion Division for the Commerce Industry and Labor Department of the Chiba Prefecture in Japan.



Private Meeting with Ecuador Minister of Trade

On November 16, the International Business Council Executive Director met privately with Ecuadorian Trade Minister Pablo Campana at the Trade Commission of Ecuador in Chicago. They discussed trade and investment opportunities for Illinois companies and specifically, some of the current investment projects the IBC was able to procure and fast-track for several members.

Trade Policy Testimony — On November 26, Tyler Diers read the statement on behalf of IBC Executive Director, Laura Ortega to the Trade Policy Task Committee. [Read the entire statement here.](#)

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



Illinois Chamber of Commerce employee Laurie Silvey is the newest member of the ESGR National Board of Directors as the Employer Representative.



ESGR LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON DC

Illinois was well represented at the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve National Leadership Meeting in Washington DC on November 14 – 16. Illinois Chamber



of Commerce employee Laurie Silvey is the newest member of the ESGR National Board of Directors as the Employer Representative. She joined Illinois State Chair Ron Bacci during the three day meeting which included planning for the 2019 fiscal year. Satch Pecori of Hanson Professional Services, an Illinois

Chamber of Commerce member, is also a member of the national board of directors, but was unable to attend the meeting.

A SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION AND CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER HOSTS VOLUNTEER EVENT



The morning of November 22, A Safe Haven's CEO Neli Rowland invited Gov. Rauner and other local officials, members of her board of directors and the International Business Council Executive Director, Laura Ortega to volunteer and celebrate Thanksgiving with ASH residents.

The IBC works with ASH as preferred catering service for all IBC events. It also facilitates international business contacts and workforce development opportunities for the group.



BILL PASSED IN ONE DAY!

The Illinois Chamber's Energy Council was successful in passing a bill out of both chambers in one day during the last week of veto session. Both chambers passed SB 849 (Zalewski/McGuire), which prohibits home rule units of government from taxing or imposing a fee on the generation of electricity or the emissions from electric generation. The bill extended the sunset to January 1, 2021. For more information, [see the Chamber's position paper](#). The bill now heads to the Governor's desk where we will be urging his signature and the Chamber has sent a letter of support. The Chamber thanks Rep. Mike Zalewski, Sen. Pat McGuire and all of the legislators that made passage possible. (Pictured, Katie Stonewater, Executive Director, Energy Council)



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The fiscal situation just has to get fixed, but in a way that's responsible for job growth, Maisch said. Simply jacking up taxes and continuing to spend how we spend is not the answer.

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TECH COUNCIL HOLDS SEMIANNUAL MEETING AT GOOGLE

Earlier this month, the Illinois Chamber's Technology and Innovation Council held its second ever meeting at Google's Chicago office in the West Loop. The meeting's keynote speaker was Tim Day, senior vice president of the US Chamber's Technology Engagement Center to provide a briefing on the US Chamber's Privacy Principles and provided a federal legislative update.



The Council also heard from Dan Leary with T-Mobile on their efforts to implement 5G internet connectivity in Illinois. Rebecca Shi from the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition (IBIC) provided a briefing on the importance of immigration reform to the technology community and recommended ways employers can engage lawmakers on the importance of immigration reform. Members also got to partake in a tour of Google's facility. Tech is now a part of every industry in today's economy. The Council seeks to bring businesses from a diverse group of sectors. If you are interested in learning more about the Council, reach out to Tyler Diers (pictured above).

MAISCH RESPONDS TO THE AMAZON ANNOUNCEMENT

Illinois Chamber of Commerce CEO Todd Maisch said Amazon officials told him the morning of November 13, that they weren't going with Illinois. While disappointing, Maisch stressed that Amazon is already a major Illinois employer with more than 10k employees. He also said more must be done in Illinois to attract and retain jobs.



“The fiscal situation just has to get fixed, but in a way that's responsible for job growth,” Maisch said.

“Simply jacking up taxes and continuing to spend how we spend is not the answer.” [See entire interview here.](#)

CHAMBER JOINS CUSHMAN AND WAKEFIELD EVENT

The Chamber's Director of Legislative Relations, Tyler Diers, joined Cushman and Wakefield's inaugural Politics and Policy panel at their world headquarters in Chicago. Diers focused on fiscal issues facing the state and the challenges Governor-elect JB Pritzker will face in the first two years of his administration. He also addressed the foreseeable policy concerns facing the business community and issues the Chamber will be working on with the new administration. Tyler joined panelists from Intersect Illinois, World Business Chicago, and ComEd.

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of November, 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 ELECTION

- [What The Business Community Will Focus on As Pritzker Enters The Governor's Office?](#)
- [The Opening Bell 11/12/18: When Are We The Most Focused and Productive Throughout Our Days?](#)

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT

- [Salary history, teacher wage bills to come back next year](#)
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ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY

- [New Illinois Attorney General Ready for Biometric Privacy Fight \(1\)](#)
- [Incoming attorney general vows to protect Illinois' biometric privacy legislation](#)
- [Illinois Supreme Court to hear oral arguments in key biometric data privacy suit](#)
- [Ill. High Court Set To Shape Biometric Privacy Litigation](#)
- [Illinois Supreme Court one step closer to ruling on biometric privacy case](#)

OTHER CHAMBER NEWS

- [Target's decision highlights Chicago's, state's poor policy decisions](#)
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 - [As Amazon passes on Illinois, business community asks why](#)
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 - [Amazon Passes on Illinois](#)
 - [Target's choice highlights Chicago's, Illinois' poor policy decision](#)