

## 2022 Regional Legislative Action Agenda

Visit [www.midstatechamber.com](http://www.midstatechamber.com), click the *Resources Tab* and under *Chamber Resources*, you'll find contact information for our area legislators!

*Developed by the Chamber's Government and Business Development Committee and approved by the Midstate Chamber Board of Directors Feb 9, 2022*

The 2022 Legislative Action Agenda lists priorities that are the keys to maintaining economic opportunities, recovery from the impact of COVID-19, and creating sound business growth in the region, with a specific focus on activities in Berlin, Meriden & Wallingford. **We ask that our legislators recognize the impact of their actions on business and to support a pro-business environment** where:

- Regional solutions can be implemented to achieve cost savings and efficiencies can be demonstrated.
- The high costs of doing business in Connecticut would be recognized, analyzed and reduced so business can remain competitive.
- Businesses are profitable, thus, able to make investments in personnel, technology, machinery and equipment to open new business opportunities.
- Public / private partnerships are encouraged to support the long-term goal of revenue growth.
- Functions that must be performed by government are done so more efficiently.
- Provide adequate and responsible oversight and regulation while outsourcing other functions whenever possible.

The 2022 Legislative Agenda is offered as a vehicle to build solid relationships and productive alliances with our elected and appointed officials of all levels of government in order to improve the business climate in Connecticut for the short and long term.

### **COVID-19 RECOVERY agenda is to:**

- ***Provide adequate resources from Covid-related relief funding to economic development programs that offset the economic impact and substantial resources to recover from supply chain issues.***
- ***Support recovery of employment especially in hard hit industries including restaurant and retail.***
- ***Develop continuous planning for future pandemics / crises to respond quickly and avoid economic damage to business and employment.***

### **The Economic Development agenda is to:**

- Continue to seek and support public and private partnerships to procure expertise and funding sources

for comprehensive development along the Hartford Line corridor.

- Coordinate housing policy as a tool and include major employers such as Meriden Mall, MidState Medical Center, etc. in making housing policy.
- Further the development of the region's TOD activities including supporting site development and reuse of 1 King Place, 116 Cook Ave. and designated adaptive re-use structures.
- Monitor the State's use of the Undercliff site and other State properties to encourage appropriate economic development in Meriden.
- Devote additional state resources to older urban areas for urban revitalization.
- Promote and market Opportunity Zone properties in Meriden.
- Support the creation of a co-working environment in TOD to support entrepreneurs and small and minority businesses.

### **The State Fiscal Policy agenda is to:**

- Continue implementing a realistic State Fiscal Policy that requires efficiencies and cost reductions which review and eliminate costly and ineffective state programs and eliminate cost drivers.
- Continue funding Education as priority.
- Continue to align salary and benefit packages for state employees with those of the private sector.
- Preserve Enterprise Zone municipal reimbursements and DECD incentives. Encourage and support Opportunity Zone investments.
- Continue to reduce the state pension liability.
- Utilize pandemic funding responsibly so as not to incur long-term and permanent, unsustainable costs.

### **The Transportation agenda is to:**

- Advocate to improve availability and ease of access from transit center to employment centers including the Meriden Mall, Research Parkway and MidState Medical Center.
- Advocate for resumption of, and expansion of public transportation schedules, especially buses, to align with the needs of businesses, the public and employees.

- Encourage increased use of public transit in order to reduce traffic and improve efficiency throughout the region.

### **The Workforce agenda is to:**

- Advocate for programs, including childcare and other incentives to allow people to return to the workforce.
- Continue Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, IT, and Trades programs and align with education for ample pipeline of talent and skills.
- Keep the state workforce skilled and competitive by investing in training programs through existing Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges, technical high schools and other resources to make Connecticut's businesses more productive and competitive.

### **The Energy / Technology agenda is to:**

- Encourage businesses to participate in energy efficiency programs including CPACE and renewable energy options.
- Take a fresh look at energy: including investigating rates, generation and distribution in the area and options and benefits of alternative systems and planning for future capacity in the region.

### **The Education agenda is to:**

- Develop and implement a sustainable system for funding education from early learning to post graduate education and to create a course of study which reflects the needs of Connecticut's business community.
- Continue to fully fund PACT (Pledge to Advance Connecticut) - the free community college tuition program.
- Strengthen the presence of Middlesex Community College in the city of Meriden both now and in the future as the 12 community colleges consolidate into one statewide institution.

### **The Health Care agenda is to:**

- Support the continuation of Access Health CT.
- Maintain support of affordable and universal healthcare including Medicare and Medicaid funding.
- Promote a healthy community through the support of recreation programs, regional greenways and encouraging public / private partnerships.