

## 2021 Regional Legislative Action Agenda

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Developed by the Chamber's Government and Business Development Committee & approved by the Chamber Board of Directors on January 13, 2021

The 2021 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 more efficiently.
- Provide adequate and responsible oversight and regulation while outsourcing other functions whenever possible.

The 2021 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:

- *Advocate for additional business stimulus funding to enable businesses to survive.*
- *Advocate for outreach efforts to demonstrate the safety of returning to work and using public transportation.*
- *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.
- Plan for and market the potential of a unified Transit Oriented Development (TOD) corridor along the Hartford rail line.
- Continue to fund and support a sustainable managed business district in Meriden's TOD.
- Secure adequate State, Federal, local and private funding to 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.
- Support Meriden, Berlin, Wallingford and other regional TOD planning activities.
- Devote additional state resources to older urban areas for urban revitalization.
- Promote and market Opportunity Zone properties in Meriden.

### The State Fiscal Policy agenda is to:

- Implement a realistic State Fiscal Policy that requires efficiencies and cost reductions which review and eliminate costly and ineffective state programs and eliminate cost drivers.
- Fund 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.

### The Transportation agenda is to:

- Implement recommendations in SCRCOG "First / Last Mile Study" and facilitate participation by the business community – improving ease of access from transit center to employment centers including the Meriden Mall and MidState Medical Center.

- Advocate for resumption of, and expansion of public transportation, especially buses, to align with the needs of businesses and the public.
- Encourage increased use of public transit in order to reduce traffic and improve efficiency throughout the region.

### The Workforce agenda is to:

- Continue Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Trades programs and align with education for ample pipeline of talent.
- 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.

### 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.
- 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.