

# The Midstate Chamber of Commerce 2020 Regional Legislative Action Agenda

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

Developed by the Chamber's Government and Business Development Committee & approved by the Chamber Board of Directors on January 8, 2020

The 2020 Legislative Action Agenda lists priorities that are the keys to maintaining economic opportunity 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 long term goal of revenue growth.
- Functions that must be performed by government are done more efficiently.

The 2020 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.

### 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 Westfield

Mall, MidState Medical Center, etc. in making housing policy.

- 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 other sites.
- Encourage private development of underutilized government sites such as the Undercliff site.
- Support Meriden, Berlin and Wallingford TOD planning activities.
- Support development of a regional arts consortium.

### The State Fiscal Policy agenda is to:

- Implement a realistic State Fiscal Policy that requires efficiencies and cost reductions.
- Addressing The State Spending Cap
- Fund Education equitably
- Align salary and benefit packages for state employees with those of the private sector
- Provide adequate and responsible oversight and regulation while outsourcing other functions whenever possible.
- Preserve Enterprise Zone municipal reimbursements and DECD incentives.
- Review and eliminate costly and ineffective state programs and eliminate cost drivers.

### The Transportation agenda is to:

- Implement recommendations in SCRCOG "First / Last Mile Study" and facilitate participation by the business community.

- Advocate for expansion of public transportation, especially buses, to align with workforce needs.
- 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 adequate 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.

### 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.

### The Health Care agenda is to:

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