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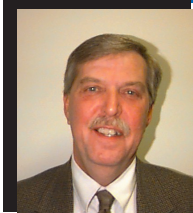
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Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

Message from the Vice-Chair, Public Policy



Dear members:
As we approach the opening of the 2010 Connecticut General

Assembly, we must all realize that our legislature must make some difficult decisions as they continue to face the economic challenges facing the state. As business owners and operators, all of us must be sure to voice our concerns to ensure that our representatives focus on economic solutions that enhance recovery. Our legislators must balance the state budget without imposing any new or increased tax liability on business. The Chamber's 2010 Legislative Agenda is presented in the following pages to highlight priority areas of our members. The Public Policy Committee along with our lobbyist, Armando Paolino of Holloran & Sage Governmental Affairs will be in Hartford working with our regional delegation to protect the business interests of our members. This year we will keep the membership informed of the Legislature's activities through public policy alerts and our newsletter. As Chamber members, I urge you to take an active interest in the 2010 session. Members of the Chamber can make a difference by staying informed and involved, and by contacting their legislators as issues arise.

Best Regards,

Tom Buckley

Vice-Chair, Public Policy
Waterbury Regional Chamber

2010 LEGISLATIVE AND REGIONAL AGENDA

SUPPORTING 6,971 BUSINESSES; 101,533 EMPLOYEES
IN THE GREATER WATERBURY 13-TOWN REGION

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Vice-Chair, Public Policy
Tom Buckley
AT&T

Chairman of the Board
Gary B. O'Connor, Esq.
Pepe & Hazard, LLP

President & CEO
Lynn Ward
Waterbury Regional Chamber

David Ball
BL Companies, Inc.

Skip Del Vaglio
Rollins Printing & Publishing, Inc.

Terry Caldarone
City of Waterbury

Joseph Connolly
Saint Mary's Health System

Steven Dwyer
Colortyme

George Frantzis II
Quassy Amusement Park Inc.

Christopher A. Gallo
BlumShapiro

William R. Harris
American Copy Service Center, Inc.

Curtis C. Jones
CIVIL 1

Chief Michael Maglione
City of Waterbury

Dr. Theodore H. Martland
Martland, Inc.

Vincent McDermott
Milone & MacBroom, Inc.

Don McPartland
Secor, Cassidy & McPartland, PC

Richard O'Brien
Webster Bank

Armando P. Paolino III
Holloran & Sage Government Affairs, LLP

William B. Pape
Republican-American

William J. Pizzuto, Ph.D.
University of Connecticut Waterbury

Carl Rosa
Main Street Waterbury

Jeffrey Santopietro
All About Service, S&P Carting, Inc.

Joe Seacrist
Town of Watertown

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Our 2010 Legislative Agenda represents the Waterbury Regional Chamber's public policy and economic development priorities. The agenda is the work of numerous volunteers on our Public Policy and Economic Development Committees; our Health Care Council, our Small Business Council as well as the Chamber's staff and our lobbyist, Armando Paolino, Holloran & Sage Government Affairs, LLC. We have collaborated with City of Waterbury Mayor Michael Jarjura and his staff; the Smaller Manufacturers' Association, the Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut, the Connecticut Hospital Association and others. It is our hope that our

elected representatives in both Hartford and Washington, D.C. will embrace them as they shape the public policy of our state and nation. This legislative and regional agenda contains many ideas and initiatives that we believe will improve the greater Waterbury region's economic opportunities. This agenda also recognizes the needs not only of the region's businesses, but its residents. We firmly believe that a superior quality of life results from sound public policy. Our priorities center around our major business sectors: manufacturing, health services and retail as well as our major infrastructure needs.

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Chamber's Representation at the Capitol:

Armando Paolino, Holloran & Sage Government Affairs, LLC 860.402.3969

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PREVIOUS AGENDA:

- Opposed HB-6187 - AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES. This Legislation would have require employers with fifty or more employees provide six paid sick days to their employees regardless of the designed industry standards
- Opposed SB-1 AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR CONNECTICUT FAMILIES. This proposal would put the state in direct competition with Connecticut businesses that currently market 401(k) plans and add to government bureaucracy
- Opposed HB-6534 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR UNION AUTHORIZATION CARD CHECKS. This bill eradicates workers of the protection of secret ballot elections in union organizing campaigns, restricting employers' ability to have a fair say during union organizing campaigns

LOCAL INITIATIVES

- Support the expansion of the University of Connecticut Waterbury regional campus to meet the current academic, technological, research, career, and social outreach and engagement needs of its students
- Continue to support the efforts of the Waterbury Development Corporation
- Continue to support Main Street Waterbury and its efforts to revitalize Waterbury's downtown central business district
- Support the efforts of the Connecticut Main Street Center and its mission to be the State's leading resource for cities and towns seeking to comprehensively revitalize their downtown districts
- Support the efforts of the Loyola project to revitalize the south end of Waterbury which is a gateway to the downtown
- Support the efforts on the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway project in securing funds
- Continue to support the development of the Multi-Modal Transportation Center and the Waterbury Rail Branch Line
- Continue to support the need for capital improvements to the Silas Bronson Library
- Continue to support funding for the WDC's Small Business Revolving Loan Fund
- Continue to support the efforts of the Borough of Naugatuck to develop Renaissance Place
- Continue to support the economic development efforts of our suburban towns
- Advocate for the elimination of unfunded state mandates which are putting additional pressure on city budgets such as "In-School Suspension"
- Ensure that the state funding for the City of Waterbury through the ECS formula allocation remains consistent with the previous year

SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES FOR FY 2010 – 2011

OVERALL BUDGET SHORTFALL

- Support a timely review of the state spending cap. The structural deficit and the integrity of future budgets with the impact of unfunded liabilities must be recognized and addressed with new short and long term budget policies put in place to prevent assumptions that cannot be supported by revenues generated by our state economy and the taxpayers
- Refocus our economy by investing in and expanding the state economy and growing the tax base. Connecticut's state government must develop streamlined aggressive incentives to retain, expand and attract jobs, businesses and capital that will be globally competitive
- Oppose increased or expanded taxes or fees that will increase costs and impede job retention and development
- Prudently implement Unemployment Compensation Fund borrowing maintaining the integrity of the program without causing undue burden on business and existing jobs

OVERVIEW OF AGENDA PRIORITIES

BUSINESS CLIMATE

ENERGY POLICY

- Support legislation which provides cost-effective solutions and which includes a sound and equitable infrastructure replacement/development plan
- Develop alternative sources of energy

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

- Support policies that provide the highest level of health care at the lowest possible cost

SUPPORT FOR MANUFACTURERS

- Support Research and Development Tax Credits as promulgated by the National Association of Manufacturers

TAXES

- Minimize the financial impact to Connecticut businesses
- Oppose legislation that would impose the so-called "millionaires" tax
- Reject measures that would increase the cost of doing business, such as:
 - Repealing workers' compensation reforms or workers' compensations costs
 - Expanding unemployment compensation eligibility and increasing unemployment compensation benefits
 - Expanding employer obligations under the Family and Medical Leave Act

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BROWNFIELDS

- Support legislation that provides a dedicated funding source for Brownfields Remediation

DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

- Support additional funding for Incumbent Worker Training programs

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Expedite the Environmental Impact Statement for the Regional Multi-Modal Transportation Center
- Secure \$5 million for capital improvements to the Silas Bronson Library
- Secure \$10 million for the WDC's Revolving Loan Fund

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

REGIONAL ECONOMIC CLUSTERS

MANUFACTURING

- Manufacturing continues to be a vital component of the overall economy. In our region goods production constitutes 20% of our economy. To remain competitive, our manufacturers need the following assistance:
- Support the recommendations of the statewide Brownfields Task Force
 - Develop alternative sources of energy
 - Support Research and Development Tax Credits as promulgated by the National Association of Manufacturers
 - Repealing workers' compensation reforms or workers' compensations costs
 - Protect all previously enacted legislation that is beneficial to the manufacturing community

HEALTHCARE

- Ensure availability of adequate coverage and care for all Connecticut citizens through initiatives for expanding access to health insurance coverage and reducing the number of uninsured individuals, including initiatives to stabilize the medical malpractice liability environment, and expanded access to primary care;
- Create a more efficient health care delivery system by focusing on improving patient care delivery without increasing unnecessary administrative burdens;
- Enhance the quality and safety of patient care by implementing and utilizing information technology to support data analysis, effective measurement and reporting, and information sharing between patient care providers;
- Encourage increased individual responsibility for health care through initiatives in public education, such as smoking cessation and obesity programs;
- Strengthen the financial health of our hospitals by securing fair and adequate hospital reimbursement rates equal to the full cost of providing such services, and assisting hospitals in reducing costs in the areas of information technology, insurance and purchasing, and greater access to capital funding through grants and low interest loans;
- Reform the mental health system by providing access to non-emergency inpatient and outpatient care for those who need it and by providing adequate payment to hospitals equal to the full cost for that care;

- Build a stronger healthcare workforce through greater support for education funding and other short and long-term collaborative efforts.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS:

The link between economic development and infrastructure, particularly roads, sewers, water supply and energy is indisputable. Our legislators need to support infrastructure initiatives that will improve economic development opportunities throughout the region

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS:

Work with the Transportation Strategy Board to ensure that the Greater Waterbury region receives adequate infrastructure investment. Ensure that the interests of the business community are represented in the I-84 and Coastal Corridor Transportation Investment Areas

- Support improvements to Interstate 84 and Route 8
- Strongly encourage the completion of the I-84 improvements from Cheshire to Newtown
- Support efforts to improve rail service between Waterbury and Bridgeport

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS:

The legislature should repeal unneeded legacy regulations impacting the communications industry; especially those rules to which newer, competing services are not subject. It should oppose newer rules which would stifle competition, private-sector investments, and consumer choice.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The Greater Waterbury region has benefited in recent years by the significant amount of support from the region's elected leadership at the state and federal level. The following initiatives are designed first and foremost to assist this region; however, several of the initiatives create state wide benefits as well.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- Support the development of a regional economic alliance to foster cooperation between public and private sectors to further the economic growth of our region and encourage regional cooperation to build a sustainable economy for Waterbury and the Central Naugatuck Valley. Identify seed monies to get the initiative off the ground
- Support the recommendations of the Governor's Early Childhood Investment Plan
- Support efforts to provide adequate funding for Special Education programs by separating Special Education funding from the ECS formula
- Support the Arts & Culture Collaborative of the Waterbury Region in its mission to strengthen and support the arts as a central component of furthering economic development and enhancing the quality of life for the residents of our 13-town region.