

Government Relations Legislative Updates



The Chamber's Government Relations Committee provides Chamber members with a unique opportunity to make their voices heard by policy makers at the local, regional and state levels. The Chamber, with over 335 members representing 20,000 jobs, creates a strong voice for business for Hoffman Estates and the surrounding communities.

The Chamber strives to foster working relationships with our legislators through regular invitations to Chamber functions and meetings. This gives everyone the chance to ask questions and to find out more on the issues that affect the business community directly.

The Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce & Industry supports the continuance or reenactment of tax credits, exemptions, legislation and regulations adopted to enhance the business climate and encourage economic development and job creation.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

1. Workers' Compensation Reform

The Chamber supports ongoing efforts to reduce the high cost of Workers' Compensation insurance through the agreed bill process and believes this open process is essential to developing a system that addresses the concerns of employers, medical providers, insurers and workers.

2. Unemployment Insurance Reform

The Chamber supports business cost savings reforms, but again believes these changes should occur through the agreed bill process.

3. Class Action Lawsuit Reform

The Chamber supports legislation to address abuse of class action in

Illinois including: limiting Illinois class action filings to Illinois residents; limiting class actions filings to appropriate jurisdictions; and establishing reasonable procedural protections for class members.

4. Pension Funding

The Chamber supports a moratorium on adding new benefits to any State supported or State authorized public pension plans. The Chamber recognizes the impact of the Illinois Supreme Court's decision that the benefits of existing employees in existing plans are protected and that any changes, including that of a defined contribution plan would have to be for any new employees. The Chamber of Commerce supports efforts to streamline the administration of existing pension systems through consolidation efforts to maximize return on investments and efforts to limit management costs.

5. Public/Private Partnerships

The Hoffman Estates Chamber opposes legislation and regulation that restricts the ability to do business with the government.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce & Industry supports:

1. Efforts to enhance entrepreneurial activity and eliminate barriers for startups and the ongoing development and growth of small, medium, and larger enterprises.
2. Initiatives designed to create, attract and retain diverse businesses and cultures.
3. Legislation that provides local economic development tools to help cause redevelopment of vacant parcels.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

1. Connecting Schools with Families & Communities

The Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce & Industry supports initiatives that build local capacity for:

- Community schools, both public and private, which prepare children for success in school and better citizenry by linking students, parents, families, and community members to resources, programs (i.e. No Excuses U) and services designed to meet their needs using the school as a "hub" for activities and maximizing existing investments in community based resources.
- Enhancement of parent engagement, community involvement and cultural diversity in students' learning and development.

2. Highly Skilled Workforce & Engaged Citizenry

The Chamber supports legislation that:
Strengthens the articulation and accessibility between our education systems and workforce demands, as well as particular legislation that strengthens the links between high schools and employers through community-based learning programs, high school-level workforce development programs and community/school partnerships that foster employment-related skills building.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Energy Sources and Energy

The Chamber continues to support the inclusion of renewable energy sources in the state's power supply where demand is supported by the market, and where investment in renewable energy will create jobs, support economic development, and spur competitive benefits to Illinois.

The Chamber opposes any disruption of energy reliability that has public health, safety and economic implications for the Northwest suburbs.

2. Conservation, Reuse and Recycling

The Chamber also supports efforts aimed at environmental education, conservation and wise use of resources, and the promotion of reuse, reclamation, recycling and materials exchanges.

TAXATION

The Chamber opposes an increase in taxes on businesses and supports sound fiscal management and balanced budgets.

TECHNOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

1. Information Technology Industry

The Chamber supports initiatives focused on the attraction and retention of information technology businesses and supports any legislation that has a positive impact on local businesses within the technology industry.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Infrastructure

The Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce & Industry supports monitoring of the maintenance of the State's infrastructure in order to promote economic development and provide safe traveling for all Illinois residents at the local, state and federal level.