



2021

# Legislative Agenda



CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE  
EASTERN CONNECTICUT

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## Government Efficiency

**SUPPORT** incentive legislation that motivates municipal governments and businesses to form partnerships that provide programs and services in the most cost-effective manner.

**SUPPORT** tax policy that will retain current businesses and attract new businesses to Connecticut.



## Health Care

**SUPPORT** measures that strengthen Connecticut hospitals and health systems. They are important community partners, generating more than 200,000 jobs and contributing over \$28 billion to the state and local economies each year.

**SUPPORT** legislation that allows small businesses the flexibility to choose from a variety of healthcare plan—including self-insured options—to find the best solution for their employees.



## Education and Workforce Development

**SUPPORT** workforce development funding to substantially grow the region’s efforts to create a skilled workforce that matches growing industries in eastern CT.

**SUPPORT** legislative and administrative efforts to increase vocationally focused, educational content offered by Connecticut’s public colleges and universities.

**SUPPORT** the development of legislation to increase portability of occupational licensing across states.

**SUPPORT** legislation to mandate schools to start after Labor Day.

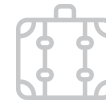
**ENACT REFORMS** that allow military spouses professional license recognition in Connecticut.

**REFORM** the state’s unemployment compensation system, including raising the earnings threshold to bring benefits in line with other states.



## Workplace Costs

**REVISE** the paid FMLA program to allow the opportunity for small businesses to opt out.



## Tourism & Gaming

**SUPPORT** development of the U.S. Coast Guard Museum in New London.

**SUPPORT** an increase in the regional tourism district budget by \$100K to support a matching grant program.

**SUPPORT** the funding for the development of a strategic tourism development plan for eastern CT with the goal of further developing the region as a tourist attraction.

**OPPOSE** any action that negatively impacts the State’s compact with its two federal recognized Native American Tribes.

**OPPOSE** any increase in the hotel room occupancy tax rate, as well as any legislation that conveys authority to levy a tax to any entity other than to the State.



## Transportation

**SUPPORT** the Governor's CT 2030 Transportation Plan to create a multi-modal, congestion-reduced Connecticut through smart enhancement projects in the state's highways, trains, buses, airports, and ports.

**SUPPORT** legislation that requires the CT DOT to partner with the private sector for the design, construction and management of major transportation networks, with the provision that these networks be returned to the public sector after a return on investment is realized.

**SUPPORT** the Connecticut Port Authority to fully develop the New London State Pier to support the off-shore wind energy industry and other cargo.

**SUPPORT** funding to expand the railroad bed between Mystic and New Haven and look at other innovative ways to improve our rail transportation infrastructure.

**SUPPORT** Cap and Trade to generate transportation funds

**SUPPORT** implementation of state-of-the-art electronic tolling systems that carves out relief for Connecticut residents.



## Energy/ Environment

**SUPPORT** legislation that allows Connecticut to conduct competitive solicitation to procure low-cost, carbon-free, reliable power directly for consumers and promote the in-state production and transmission of energy from diverse fuel sources, as well as greater access to regional sources of low and zero emission electricity.



## Commerce

**SUPPORT** legislation that provides tax incentives and fiscal policies to support and grow the State's manufacturing base and related supply chain.

**SUPPORT** efforts to simplify interstate internet sales tax regulations.

**OPPOSE** new costly federal and state regulations that unnecessarily inhibits granting loans to qualified businesses, especially small and startup businesses. A healthy economic environment is an essential component of job creation and quality of life for all our citizens. None of which can happen without a strong healthy community banking system. Furthermore, the Chamber encourages legislators to work with the state banking commissioner to streamline or eliminate existing bureaucratic regulations where ever possible.



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