

2021 Legislative Agenda



Government Relations Committee

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Build Connecticut's Economy

*Our Mission: To promote
economic growth while
enhancing the quality of life
in Northwest Connecticut.*



To build back our economy, vaccine distribution must be a priority:

- Prioritize healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential workers including teachers and nonprofit community providers of social services.
- Create comprehensive marketing/outreach strategy to educate the public.
- Address pandemic incentives for business to act responsibly.

Support pro-business policies that encourage growth and attract and retain businesses:

- Actively engage the business community in planning and optimally manage and distribute state and federal relief funds for the stabilization and strengthening of key business sectors most impacted by COVID.
- Oppose mandates, regulations and tax increases that increase both the cost of living and the cost of doing business.
- Repeal the indexing of minimum wage after reaching \$15/hour.
- Support legislation to hold employers harmless for unemployment compensation rates when a replacement worker is dismissed due to permanent employee's FML status.

Support small businesses, especially those impacted by COVID:

- Repeal the 6.35% state sales tax on employment training and safety apparel, including personal protective equipment.
- Restore the pass-through entity tax credit to its original 93%— the 2019 reduction costs small businesses \$53 million annually.
- Restore the R&D tax credit to attract entrepreneurs, foster startup businesses, and promote private sector investment.

Retain existing residents and individuals that relocated to CT due to quality of life:

- Our arts organizations bring people to the city center and need support, with the state's arts & culture sector losing \$2 billion in sales.
- Support culture and tourism initiatives in Northwest CT such as the Warner Theatre, Five Points Center for the Visual Arts, KidsPlay Children's Museum, Nutmeg Conservatory, American Museum of Tort Law, and the American Mural Project.
- Support broadband and fiber-optic networks for Northwest CT which is critical to the region's economic development.



Provide a framework to attract, train, and retain the next generation of workers:

- Support policies that address the high cost of living to attract skilled labor, college graduates and young professionals to Northwest CT.
- Recognize the importance of Northwest CT's manufacturing sector and foster relationships to allow the industry to thrive in a global climate. Promoting workforce development is at the heart of the sector's commitment to job creation.
- Support course offerings and programs by Northwestern CT Community College that are crucial to our region's workforce.
- Support ways to reduce financial barriers for young people to achieve post-secondary education credentials that strengthen the workforce of the community.
- Improve collaboration among vo-ag and vo-tech schools with local public schools to ensure adequate funding.