



PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2017

SUSTAINED FOCUS ON JOB RETENTION & GROWTH

The MetroHartford Alliance's mission is to ensure that the Hartford Region and the State of Connecticut compete aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent. Our legislative agenda focuses on fiscal sustainability and investments that will strengthen Connecticut's economic competitiveness.

The Alliance urges policy makers to focus on job retention and growth and increasing residents' wages. While initiatives aimed at growing jobs have been implemented in recent years, the State's recovery of jobs lost since the Great Recession continues to lag neighboring states and other regions with which we compete.

Sustained collective effort is needed to protect Connecticut's exceptional employers and workforce in the key industries of aerospace, bioscience, health care, higher education, insurance and financial services, and precision manufacturing. Five core Alliance initiatives strengthening job growth are:

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY CLUSTER (IFS) connecticutifs.com

As the Insurance Capital, over 110,000 state residents work in insurance and financial services. Connecticut holds the number one rank nationally for insurance jobs per capita, with every new job created generating an additional 1.88 jobs in the state economy. IFS champions policies that: strengthen Connecticut's climate for retaining and creating jobs in this key sector; drive workforce development initiatives to ensure a pipeline of talent for the industry; and promote Connecticut as a prime location for IFS businesses.

CONNECTICUT HEALTH COUNCIL (CHC)

cthealthcouncil.com

CHC promotes Connecticut as a center of health excellence and the health sector as a primary driver of economic and employment growth in our State. CHC provides a forum for a robust network leaders of for-profit and non-profit health sector employers to advance the development of businesses, initiatives and technologies that improve health care and wellness.

HARTFORD YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS (HYPE) hypehartford.com

Attracting and retaining talent in the Hartford Region is a top priority for the MetroHartford Alliance. HYPE was formed in 2006 to help young professionals become better engaged in community life, expand professional and social opportunities and become ambassadors for the Hartford Region. In the process, HYPE positions the Region as an attractive area for diverse young professionals and entrepreneurs to live, work and play.

GLOBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL (GBC)

bit.ly/GlobalBusinessCouncil

By capitalizing on an outstanding quality of life and the hundreds of international firms calling the region home, the GBC promotes the metro Hartford region as an invaluable access point to North American businesses and customers. The GBC helps foreign companies reach major Northeastern markets while benefitting from excellent transportation and broadband infrastructure, robust industries in insurance and financial services; advanced manufacturing and health care, and access to the Hartford region's highly productive and educated workforce.

More...

Initiatives of the MetroHartford Alliance



INNOVATION DESTINATION: HARTFORD (IDH)

innovationhartford.com

IDH represents a coalition of entrepreneurs and service providers dedicated to enhancing the Hartford Region's ability to support startups and second-stage entrepreneurs. IDH's website facilitates connections for entrepreneurs so they can secure the resources they need to launch and grow a business. IDH also showcases innovation within the region, entrepreneurial success stories, movers and shakers within the entrepreneurial community, and events and programs designed to serve the entrepreneur.

BUDGET WITH A FOCUS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

Connecticut faces significant budget deficits not only in the current fiscal year (\$77 million) but also in FY'18 (\$1.45 billion) and FY'19 (\$1.6 billion). Accordingly, the Alliance remains adamant in its support for:

- Balanced budgets that prioritize state spending in areas that encourage economic growth.
- The adoption of definitions under the constitutional spending cap
- Establishing a competitive tax climate with consistent and predictable tax policies
- Adopting structural reforms that foster sustainable budgets and economic competitiveness
- Delivering services through private providers when such providers can offer quality services more efficiently or cost effectively
- Addressing Connecticut's significant unfunded pension and benefit obligations

SUPPORTING OUR CITIES & TOWNS

The Alliance values all of metro Hartford's municipalities and embraces Connecticut's capital city as the dynamic urban core of our Region. During the past two decades, major public and private investment has made Hartford an appealing urban center with ever more cultural, entertainment and living opportunities. At the same time, the City has suffered from misguided financial management and a stagnating Grand List, and now faces a fiscal crisis. The Alliance is committed to working with all stakeholders to craft a solution that sustainably resolves these daunting fiscal challenges and enables Hartford and all of our cities and towns to prosper.

INFRASTRUCTURE & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Job retention and creation depends on infrastructure facilitating the efficient movement of freight, information, and people

throughout Connecticut. We reiterate our support for key infrastructure including:

TRANSPORTATION

- Congressman Larson's innovative proposal to replace the aging I-84 viaduct, a plan which aims to also address congestion on I-84 and I-91, return land to Hartford and East Hartford, and fix the levees on the Hartford side of the Connecticut River
- The Connecticut Airport Authority's efforts to leverage Bradley International Airport's economic development potential through direct service to the West Coast and Europe

BROADBAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Building upon Connecticut's nationally ranked broadband access and speed and highlighting these resources as a critical economic advantage

ENERGY

- Reliable access to affordable energy is key to helping Connecticut thrive, grow and create jobs. By facilitating smart investments in generation and transmission, we can move closer to reaching Connecticut's goal of providing cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy resources to the residents and employers of our state.

WATER

- Water is both a fundamental element of our quality of life and among Connecticut's most valuable economic assets. We are fortunate to have a body of regulations that protect water quality and supply. When contemplating changes to water regulations, the Alliance urges policymakers to consider the vital role that water infrastructure plays in attracting private investment and economic development in our state.

INVESTING IN A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Connecticut's ability to create jobs and strengthen our economy is inextricably linked to a skilled, educated workforce. We will continue to work with policymakers to eliminate the achievement gap to ensure a well-prepared future workforce. We are also committed to working with Connecticut's public and private colleges and universities to align their efforts with secondary education to meet employers' needs.

For more information, visit the MetroHartford Alliance online at www.metrohartford.com/public-policy