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CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Workforce
Alliance

RGP
Regional Growth Partnership

Arts Council of
Greater New Haven

SCRCOG
South Central Regional
Council of Governments

South Central CT
Regional Alliance

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Regional Legislative Agenda 2009

- Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
- South Central CT Regional Alliance
- Arts Council of Greater New Haven
- Regional Growth Partnership
- Workforce Alliance
- South Central Regional Council of Governments
- Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau
- New Haven Manufacturers Association

2009 Regional Legislative Agenda

The Goal: Balanced and Sustainable Economic Growth for Connecticut

Even in an uncertain economic climate, Connecticut must keep its eye on economic competitiveness and build on its strengths. The 2009 Regional Legislative Agenda, a statement approved by eight regional agencies in Greater New Haven, calls for a balance between prudent fiscal management and a strategy for the future that includes workforce readiness, infrastructure investments, integrated tax policies, and job growth.

To make legislative action as effective as possible, the 2009 Agenda is limited to six priorities that are keys to maintaining economic opportunity and growth.

Economic Development

- Favor proposals which strengthen previous investment, whether public or private, and comply with development and transportation plans including the State Economic Development Strategic Plan now in preparation, in order to make the best use of existing infrastructure. Strengthen funding for State PILOT and College & Hospital PILOT to encourage growth of the major economic drivers in our region.

Energy/Technology

- Encourage a competitive electricity procurement process and, to ensure reliable and affordable energy and reduce the burden of energy costs on business, support the development of traditional and alternative energy sources by any developer.

Spur competition in the communications industry and stimulate investment in high-technology infrastructure by equalizing regulation among competing providers and revising or eliminating outdated rules and regulations that do not impact customers.

Transportation

- Strengthen interstate and regional access by increasing operating and capital support for Tweed-New Haven Airport, initiating commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, implementing priority projects to ease highway congestion, and supporting a parking garage/mixed use development at Union Station.

Arts/Entertainment/Tourism

- Preserve funding for the Commission on Culture and Tourism to ensure a robust tourist and culture economy, which provides employment for over 170,000 people and generates over \$14 billion in economic activity in Connecticut. Tourism, arts and culture are critical to enhancing the region's economic vitality and enriching the lives of our citizens.

Workforce/Manufacturing

- Keep the state workforce skilled and competitive by investing in incumbent worker training through existing Workforce Investment Boards to make Connecticut's businesses more productive and competitive.

Promote recognition in public policy of the special role of manufacturers in the economy to ensure that manufacturers are valued by state and local government for their revenue productivity, their highly skilled workforces, and their capacity for indirect job creation.

Health Care

- Make quality affordable health care available to all state residents by supporting initiatives that: improve access to affordable health insurance coverage; increase Medicaid rates and State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) rates to equal the cost of patient care; and develop funding sources dedicated to health care quality and patient safety.