

# ADVOCACY REPORT

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1919-2019

ILLINOIS  
CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS  
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

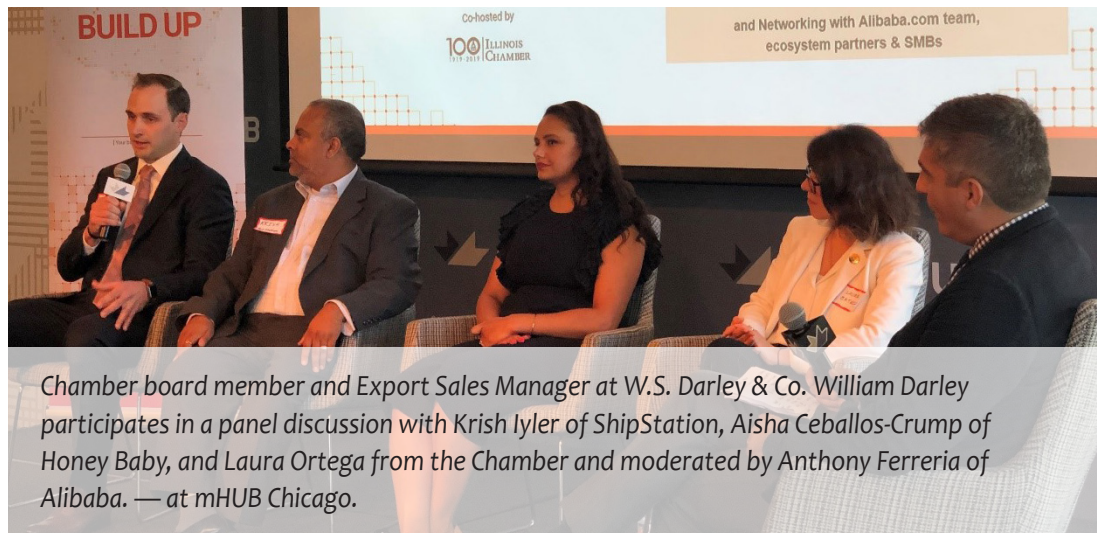
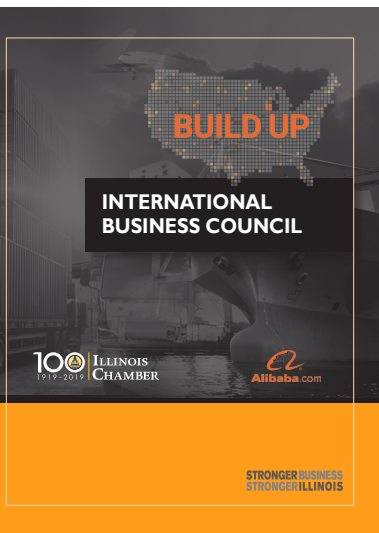
## CHAMBER TEAMS UP WITH ALIBABA.COM



*Executive Director of the International Business Council at the Illinois Chamber Laura Ortega poses with Director of Operations and Business Development North America B2B at the Alibaba Group Anthony Ferreria pose for a photo following the event.*

On July 30, the Chamber teamed up with our member Alibaba.com to host a free event celebrating the company's B2B platform launch in the U.S. at the MHub in Chicago.

Build Up Chicago celebrated this exciting launch of one of the world's largest B2B ecommerce market places and gave information to Chicago small business owners on how to reach a massive new audience, attend a local workshop or get \$500 off their seller membership.



*Chamber board member and Export Sales Manager at W.S. Darley & Co. William Darley participates in a panel discussion with Krish Iyler of ShipStation, Aisha Ceballos-Crump of Honey Baby, and Laura Ortega from the Chamber and moderated by Anthony Ferreria of Alibaba. — at mHUB Chicago.*

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If you are interested in learning more about the Illinois Chamber you may [click here](#) to contact Jeanette Anderson

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“

We know this legislation isn't perfect. But, we believe that it will encourage the advancement of the commercial, industrial, manufacturing, agricultural and civic interests of the people of Illinois.”

– Todd Maisch on infrastructure, Chicago Tribune

## I-74 ROAD PROGRESS BETWEEN PEORIA AND BLOOMINGTON

Chamber staff joined Illinois State Representative Tim Butler (R-Springfield), Win Stoller from the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce and John Walsh with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce as they inspected work on I-74 between Peoria and Bloomington on July 18.

John Walsh with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce also seeing the work on I-74.

Win Stoller from Widmer Interiors and Chair of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce inspecting with Representative Tim Butler (R-Springfield).



## STAATS PRESENTS AT WEBINAR

Keith Staats, executive director of the Chamber's Tax Institute, presented at a webinar sponsored by the Illinois CPA Society on the new laws on taxation of recreational cannabis on July 15.



**Tax Institute Meeting:** The quarterly meeting of the Illinois Chamber Tax Institute was hosted by True Partners Consulting LLC and featured Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris as the speaker on July 15.





“

Safety from not only the safety of their coworkers but also for clients and customers and making sure you're going to reduce your litigation.”

”

– Jay Shattuck on cannabis, FOX 55/27

## MAISCH JOINS PANEL ON “FLANNERY FIRED UP”

Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch joined RTA Chairman Kirk Dillard and Deputy Gov. Christian Mitchell on Flannery Fired Up on Fox 32 to discuss Illinois finances and infrastructure on July 10 in Chicago.

[Watch Flannery Fired Up: Gas Tax, Illinois Credit Rating](#)



## IMPACT OF PUBLIC TRANSIT ESSENTIAL FOR INDEPENDENCE

Rebecca Mason, executive director of the Chamber Infrastructure Council, attended last week's presentation of the "Friend of Infrastructure" to State Senator Andy Manar on July 23. The ceremony touched on the impact Macoupin County Public Transit has had on the community by allowing people to stay in their homes rather than have to move into nursing care and ensuring people are able to access jobs and education opportunities.





“

A lot of other states have retooled their economic development toolbox to reflect businesses and industries of the 21st century.

”

–Tyler Diers on data centers, Center Square



CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

**Commentary: Why the gas tax is good for Illinois businesses**

## CHAMBER OP-ED REFERENCED BY SEVERAL LEGISLATORS

Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch wrote an exclusive op-ed the Chicago Tribune printed on July 1, explaining how vital infrastructure is to Illinois business. The Chamber received support from around the state for the op-ed and several legislators have pointed to its contents when discuss the user fee increase.

[Read entire Commentary: Why the gas tax is good for Illinois businesses](#)



Chicago Tribune

## DIERS RECAPS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Chamber Director of Legislative Relations Tyler Diers presented presented wins and loses for Illinois business this session and highlighted areas of cooperation between the legislature and the business community at the Romeville Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast on July 18 at Bee Brothers.



# CHAMBER ADVOCACY



## IN THE NEWS

*Fighting for Business Every Month*

*In the month of July, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois. Below is a selection of stories where the Chamber has advocated its position on a variety of topics.*

### ILLINOIS BUSINESS

- [Springfield's most momentous legislative session in decades](#) – Illinois Chamber mentioned
- [Todd Maisch: Ratify the U.S.–Mexico–Canada Agreement](#) – Todd Maisch article
- [Gov. Pritzker Signs \\$45B 'Rebuild Illinois' Legislation; Includes Casino Expansion](#) – Rebecca Mason quoted
- [Commentary: Why the gas tax is good for Illinois businesses](#) – Illinois Chamber mentioned
- [Employers work to keep drug-free workplaces with legalized marijuana](#) – Todd Maisch & Jay Shattuck quoted
- [Illinois Chamber applauds signing of Rebuild Illinois](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Business groups view historic legislative session as 'mixed bag'](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

### ILLINOIS ECONOMY

- [Business, Health Leaders Defend Immigrant Communities](#) – Todd Maisch mentioned

### ILLINOIS GAS TAX

- [Court battle could decide how Illinois governments can spend gas tax money](#) – Illinois Chamber mentioned
- [Flannery Fired Up: Gas Tax, Illinois Credit Rating](#) – Todd on Flannery Fired Up

### ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY

- [QTS Applauds Passage of Tax Incentives for Illinois Data Centers](#) – Illinois Chamber mentioned

### ILLINOIS ENERGY

- [Pritzker Signs Legislation Prohibiting Dumping of Coal Ash in IL](#) – Todd Maisch mentioned
  - [Illinois governor signs bill cracking down on coal ash pits, requiring companies to pay for future cleanup](#) – Todd Maisch mentioned

### ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE

- [CAPITOL RECAP: \\$45 billion Infrastructure bill becomes law with new taxes to pay for it](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
  - [CAPITOL RECAP: \\$45 billion Infrastructure bill becomes law with new taxes to pay for it](#)

Chamber board member **Daniel Wagner**, senior vice president of government relations for the **Inland Real Estate Group**, was selected for the prestigious *Edgar Fellows* program. [Read More](#)



Chamber member **T-Mobile** and **Sprint** received clearance from the U.S. Department of Justice for merger to create the New T-Mobile. [Read More](#)



Chamber member **Ford Motor Company** announced the addition of 450 jobs and a \$50 million investment to convert a facility near their Chicago plant. [Read more](#)



Chamber member **Illinois American Water** shared tips to help consumers use water more efficiently and identify and prevent leaks and help to protect themselves during this scorching summer. [Read More](#)



Chamber member **ExxonMobil** and **Global Thermostat** signed a joint development agreement to advance breakthrough technology to remove carbon dioxide from industrial sources and the atmosphere. [Read More](#)



**NRE**, where Chamber board member **Brandon Bullard** works as the director of marketing, opened its 450,000 square foot plant in Paducah, Kentucky providing much needed jobs to Southern Illinois. [Read More](#)

