



December 2019 Edition

On Point Policy...

Happy Holidays!

As the year comes to a close we thank you for your interest in our legislative efforts. We strive to educate and inform our members about policy that impacts the business community.

We know that you may be more interested in specific topics, and we want to deliver the most relevant information to you. So, we have created a survey to allow you to check the areas of activity you want. This is our way of ensuring that you stay on top of those issues and policies that most affect you and your business.

Below you will find the link to our survey.

[Click here](#)

LOCAL UPDATES

Bay Area

Bay City Bridges

On Monday, December 16, the City of Bay City Commissioners voted 9-0 to accept the contract by United Bridge Partners (UBP) and privatize both Independence and Liberty Bridges.

This contract, negotiated at the direction of the city commission after being chosen from among three proposals, represents the best opportunity for the city to improve its infrastructure.

Over the past several years, the city has spent an average of more than \$700,000 on bridge maintenance and repairs each year. That represents roughly one-half of the city's full budget for roads or, put

Saginaw County

Pure Michigan

The popular ad campaign has greatly benefited the city of Frankenmuth since its start in 2008 under the Snyder administration. In 2018 alone, tourism generated \$2.8 billion in state and local tax revenue. Every dollar spent on Pure Michigan yielded a return on investment of \$9.

Our very own Little Bavaria will be hit hard if the Pure Michigan campaign is not restored.

There is not strong support for a campaign based solely on tourism from the Senator Majority Leader or the Governor's office,

another way, is nearly \$2,000 per day and almost \$60,000 per month in taxpayer money spent on bridge maintenance and repair.

This agreement enables Bay City to continue to have four bridges, double municipal road funding, provide a choice to pay for the use and will create jobs with the more-than \$100 million infrastructure project.

We applaud our Commissioners on making a difficult decision that moves our community forward.

there is talk about re-purposing the dollars to create a campaign that focuses on recruiting people to come, play and most importantly stay in Michigan.

Our regional champions in the Legislature are continuing to press conversation with their fellow legislators to have funding restored.

STATE GOVERNMENT UPDATES

As the Michigan Legislature rolled into winter break, they passed supplemental budget bills to fill the holes that were left in October. To see what made the cut and what still has to be negotiated click below.

[Policy Pulse: Budget Update](#)

Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave UPDATE

Recall, in July the Michigan Supreme Court heard oral arguments over the constitutionality of the Michigan Legislature's amendments to the Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave act after it was passed by Michigan voters in August 2018.

On Wednesday, December 18 in a 4-3 ruling, the Court said they would not be issuing an advisory opinion regarding the actions of the Legislature.

Although, the ruling on the surface means that Michigan employers can continue to comply with the laws as they were enacted but could lead to other issues. The Attorney General may issue an opinion finding the law to be unconstitutional, directing state agencies to enforce the original ballot proposal language (i.e., a \$12 minimum wage by 2022 and a 72 hour paid sick leave mandate that would apply to employers with 50 or more employees and a 40/32 hour paid/unpaid mandate that would apply to employers with less than 10 employees). Additionally, the claim could be taken further leading to additional rounds of litigation in the Michigan Court of Claims.

The ruling by the Court is disappointing to the business community.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATES

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

The US House Committee Ways and Means voted on Tuesday to move the USMCA to the full House for consideration. Yesterday, the House passed the USMCA in bipartisan fashion. With \$5 billion in exported goods from the Great Lakes Bay Region alone, this agreement will have a positive impact for Michigan. We thank Ways & Means Committee Member Congressman Dan Kildee, as well as Congressman John Moolenaar, for recognizing the importance

the USCMA has on our state.

We are here to represent you.

As legislation comes up and your company wants to have their voice heard to play a role in the law making process, [contact me here.](#)

On behalf of our members, the Bay Area and Saginaw County Chambers of Commerce will continue to monitor public policy that impacts our region, our communities and most importantly--your business!

Any questions or concerns contact Director of Government Affairs
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