**Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce**

**Public Policy Summary**

**Public Policy**

The Chamber is your voice in government. Our Government Affairs team advocates for issues of concern to your business on the local, state and federal levels. We take proactive measures to ensure that government considers business objectives and viewpoints. We'll keep you informed of relevant issues through our newsletters, and committee and council meetings. The Public Policy Committee takes pro-business positions on legislation that will have an impact on your business.

Policies, Statements:

 -Right to Work

-Immigration

-Minimum Wage

Events:

-Annual Mayors Dinner

-Breakfast with Sec of Corrections John Wetzel

**Energy & Environment**

To develop, coordinate, and advance long term business-sensitive strategies for sustainable energy efficiency initiatives, environmental protection and infrastructure development that will improve the business climate and quality of life for business owners, employees and their families in the Lehigh Valley.

Policies, Statements:

-PennEast policy

-Marcellus Shale

-Comments on EPA Clean Air Act

-Climate change statement under consideration

Events:

-Annual Outlook

-PennEast Forum

Partnerships:

 -Young Professionals Council

**Healthcare**

To educate and assist Chamber members to control healthcare costs while maintaining exceptional healthcare quality for employees by making an impact on these factors: personal accountability, transparency, tort reform, consumerism and promotion of free-market policies promoting competition in healthcare.

Policies, Statements:

 -Health Legislative Policy

-Proposed--small group and Cadillac tax statements

Events:

-Annual Workshop and Summit—partnering with Small Business Council

**Manufacturing Council**

The mission of the Manufacturing Council is to elevate the importance of manufacturing in the Lehigh Valley.

Events:

-Summits

-WIB partnership

-Sec of Labor and Industry event with Sec Manderino

**Tax and Regulatory**

The Chamber's Tax & Regulatory Committee is composed of member small business owners, as well as tax and finance and management specialists, who review the annual fiscal plans and tax legislation at the local, state, and federal levels to assure that tax burdens are shared equally. The Committee assumes responsibility for informing the municipal officials, General Assembly, and Congress of the Lehigh Valley’s tax concerns.

Policies, Statements:

 -Tax and Regulatory Policy

 -E Fairness

-Pension Statement

Events:

-Annual Forum

Partnerships:

 -Compete PA

**Transportation**

The Chamber's Transportation Committee’s mission is to develop, coordinate, and promote regional transportation strategies and proposals-or state or federal transportation proposals with the potential for regional impact-which effectively utilize public resources, support commerce, and facilitate economic development.

Policies, Statements

-Transportation Policy

Events:

-Press Conference on Transportation Funding

-Annual Forum (2015 with Sec of Transportation Leslie Richards)

**Workforce Investment Board Partnership**

Positions, Statements:

 -Early Childhood Education

-MGY testimony to PA House Democratic Policy Committee on Workforce Development

(Panel with Nancy Dischinat)

Events:

 -Secretary Of Education Rivera

Partnerships:

 -Skills to Compete (Industry Partnerships group)

**Communication**

* All finalized policies and statements sent to appropriate legislators with meetings arranged as needed.
* Minimum wage statement presented to Governor Wolf.
* Media advisories sent after each statement/policy is finalized.
* Op-ed pieces and articles (e.g., TI on beverage industry and MGY IP funding op-ed)
* Policies described in Connections columns written by committee chairs.
* Policies posted on Chamber website