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Each year, the Public Policy Committee engages in an extensive review of potential public policy concerns to ensure members' needs are met on a policy level and to determine the top public policy priorities to address.

This year, the top three issues that emerged from this rigorous process are State Pension Reform, Transportation Infrastructure, and Workforce Development.

- **State Pension Reform:** The current \$60 billion in unfunded liability continues to have serious ramifications to Pennsylvania's economy. We will examine legislation and proposals for solving the pension crisis and will continue to advocate for reform that is swift, comprehensive and sustainable over the long term.
- **Transportation infrastructure:** Infrastructure is crucial to both economic growth and quality of life in the Lehigh Valley. We will review the impact of the Federal Highway Administration's proposal to regionalize Metropolitan Planning Organizations, which could potentially force the Lehigh Valley to compete with cities such as New York and Boston for transportation funding, and reduce funding to the Valley.
- **Workforce Development:** We will review the Lehigh Valley's workforce, and its education and training, to ensure that it meets the demands of the Lehigh Valley's economic growth in partnership with the Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Board.

The Public Policy Committee and its subcommittees conduct extensive research through a rigorous vetting process in order to draft a policy statement that represents the interest of our chamber members. The policy recommendation is then reviewed and approved by the full Public Policy Committee, the Chamber's Executive Committee and the Chamber's Board of Governors.

These priorities are by no means the only policies on the Public Policy Committee's agenda this year. It is just a highlight of the top three issues the committee will tackle this year. We will also continue our efforts in other areas to address specific concerns that arise during the year through our Energy & Environment, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Tax/Regulatory, and Transportation subcommittees. As always, we encourage your input on any public policy issues or activities that impact your business.

Thank you to all the chambers and councils for their support/participation in the process.