

MOVING CONNECTICUT UP

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS >

We live and work in a terrific state. Connecticut is rich in history and culture, blessed by geography and an enviable quality of life, and home to acclaimed academic institutions and world-class companies.

Connecticut gave the world the typewriter, helicopters, submarines, insurance policies, color television, vulcanized rubber, and the artificial heart. Not to mention can openers, hamburgers, and Wiffle® Ball.

That legacy of innovation continues, with an educated, skilled, highly productive workforce driving advances in manufacturing, bioscience, aerospace, medical technology, financial services, insurance, healthcare, renewable energy, entertainment, and more.

Yet today, we're at an economic crossroads. Despite making progress in developing a talented future workforce, reducing energy costs, and cutting government red tape, our economic recovery has not kept pace with the national and regional economies. It is critical that we break that pattern and unlock the state's enormous potential.

And while we face significant challenges, they can be overcome.

However, many independent national reports rank our overall business climate among the bottom 10 states. These rankings directly impact business confidence, hampering private sector investment and slowing our economic recovery.

How do we address this? We must nurture our strengths and tackle barriers to growth to make Connecticut one of the *best* places to do business in the country.

Making Connecticut a top 20 state for business by 2017 will accelerate our economic recovery. That's why we're proud to support the CT20x17 campaign and its framework of commonsense policies, including the following:

- > **Talent.** Fully implement Connecticut education reforms and continue improving public higher education to create a pipeline of skilled talent.
- > **Fiscal Policy.** Adopt balanced state budgets that support critical public services and stay within taxpayer means, reduce long-term debt, and create a more competitive tax structure.

- > **Transportation.** Identify and accelerate priority investments in roads, bridges, transit systems, and air and sea ports—and protect the Special Transportation Fund.
- > **Business Costs.** Reduce the cost of doing business in Connecticut, including lowering energy costs and dropping unnecessary employer mandates.
- > **Red Tape.** Continue expanding efficiency practices to all areas of government, follow through on comprehensive regulatory reforms, and make state agencies more user-friendly.

We urge our elected officials to work together in a bipartisan manner and make CT20x17 a reality.

We're also asking you to support the CT20x17 campaign. Ask questions of your elected officials and hold them accountable. Acknowledge that they'll have to make some tough decisions, and back them when they do.

Everyone benefits. A strong, growing economy means more opportunities for good, well-paying jobs. It means protecting our quality of life. And it means guaranteeing a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Avon Chamber of Commerce
Bridgeport Regional Business Council
Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut
Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut
Connecticut Bankers Association
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Connecticut Lodging Association

Connecticut Marine Trades Association
Connecticut Restaurant Association
Connecticut Retail Merchants Association
East Hartford Chamber of Commerce
East of the River Chambers of Commerce Association
Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce
Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
Greater New Milford Chamber of Commerce
Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce
Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut, Inc.

Insurance Association of Connecticut
Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut, Inc. (MAC)
Mechanical Contractors Association of CT, Inc.
MetroHartford Alliance
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
Midstate Chamber of Commerce
Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, Inc.
Movers and Warehousemen's Association of Connecticut

New Haven Manufacturers Association
Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Simsbury Chamber of Commerce
Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut
South Windsor Chamber of Commerce
Stamford Chamber of Commerce

The Business Council of Fairfield County
The Chamber of Commerce Inc., Windham Region
The Wilton Chamber of Commerce
Tolland County Chamber of Commerce
Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce
West Hartford Chamber of Commerce
Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce

CT20x17

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