

Subject: Monday Morning Group Minutes
From: "Elizabeth Krueger" <kruegere@cbia.com>
Date: 14 Feb 2011 16:39:32 -0500
To: avonchamber@sbcglobal.net

CBIA Monday Morning Group

February 14, 2011

No meeting next week. Next meeting – Monday, February 28

Banks (Kevin Hennessy) -The Banks Committee met last week and we testified against:

- **SB-254** AAC Credit File Monitoring For Victims Of Personal Identifying Information Theft – which would require lending institutions that inadequately safeguard personal identifying information to provide lifetime credit monitoring.
- **SB-195** AA Establishing a Centralized Database of Bank Account Information to Facilitate the Collection of Court Judgments – would have the state collect and manage a database of bank account information to expedite the payment of legal judgments.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com for information regarding Banks.

Commerce (Louis Bach)– The committee has a busy schedule this week with public hearings on Tuesday and Thursday. There are a number of bills being heard that could, if enacted, help businesses as they try to identify incentive programs, comply with licensing and permits, etc. CBIA will be testifying in favor of streamlining the manner in which prospective and existing businesses are made to navigate state bureaucracy. CBIA will likely submit written testimony in support of additional measures including **SB-903** which would exempt from the sales tax the services of temporary workers in manufacturing companies.

Please contact Louis Bach at Louis.Bach@cbia.com for information regarding Commerce.

Education (Louis Bach)– Last Tuesday members of the CT Commission for Education Achievement met with eight members of the General Assembly's Black & Puerto Rican Caucus to discuss the Commission's recommendations to close the achievement gap and return our schools to a position of national leadership. CBIA has endorsed the Commission's suggestions and is working to advance their agenda in the legislature. We are expecting to hear from the office of the Caucus' Chairman, Rep. Holder-Winfield, this week with his list of overlapping priorities. CBIA is looking forward to working with the Caucus on this critical matter.

Please contact Louis Bach at Louis.Bach@cbia.com for information regarding Education.

Higher Education and Employment Advancement (Louis Bach) -

Please contact Louis Bach at Louis.Bach@cbia.com for information regarding Higher Education.

Energy (Kevin Hennessy)– Last week the Energy & Technology Committee held a hearing on carve outs for renewable energy credits for various technologies. CBIA opposed the measures because they will increase the cost of electricity. CBIA urged the committee to prioritize what they want energy policy to achieve: lower rates, reduced costs, increased environmental benefits, increased economic benefits or improved reliability. We indicated the preference for the business community is to address the cost of electricity.

The committee has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow and we are assuming they will be voting on the bills heard last week:

- **SB-200** AA Establishing Geothermal Renewable Energy Credits
- **SB-255** AAC Solar Renewable Energy Certificates
- **SB-634** AAC Farm Methane Resources

Thursday the Energy Committee has a public hearing scheduled to address utility issues (billing, collection and contractors) .

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com for information regarding Energy.

Environment (Eric Brown) - This week there are not many business-related bills in the Environment Committee.

The Chairs of the Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer & Rep. Roy will be attending CBIA's EPC meeting on Friday.

Please contact Eric Brown at Eric.Brown@cbia.com for information regarding Environment.

GAE (Kevin Hennessy) - The GAE Committee has a public hearing scheduled today dealing with election law bills.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com for information regarding GAE.

Healthcare (Eric George) - On Monday, the Public Health, Insurance and Human Services Committees are holding a joint public hearing on SustiNet (**HB-6305**), Pooling (**HB-6308**) and Exchanges (**SB-921**). The SustiNet and Pooling plans are very risky since they put significant jobs at risk, potentially subject Connecticut to even greater unfunded liabilities and subject CT taxpayers to unknown (and possibly hefty) costs as they require the State of Connecticut to pay the medical claims of their respective participants.

The Exchange bill would establish a health insurance marketplace for Connecticut, as required by federal health reform. CBIA is urging the General Assembly to craft Connecticut's Exchange in a way that preserves and strengthens the private sector.

On Thursday, CBIA will be conducting a webinar on the impact of SustiNet specifically on health insurance brokers.

Please contact Eric George at Eric.George@cbia.com for information regarding Healthcare.

Judiciary (Kevin Hennessy) - The Judiciary Committee has a public hearing today dealing with appointments.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com for information regarding Judiciary.

Labor (Kia Murrell) - On Tuesday, the Labor Committee will hold a meeting (agenda not released yet) and a public hearing on a variety of issues affecting employers. Among the bills being considered:

- **HB-6176** AAC Penalty increases for violations of the Personnel Files Act (CBIA neutral)
- **SB-364, SB-934, SB-936** All proposals relating to the administration of unemployment comp benefits. None of these measures appears problematic at this time. (CBIA Neutral/Supportive)
- **SB-361** AAC Use of Credit Scores in Employment Decisions. Prohibits employers from requiring an employee or prospective employee to consent to the creation of a credit report as a condition of employment. Although we have opposed such measures in the past, the bill language is somewhat confusing. Therefore, its not clear how many employers will be impacted by this bill, but we generally oppose measures that restrict hiring practices. (CBIA OPPOSED)

On Thursday, the Labor Committee will hold a public hearing on two bills of concern:

- **SB-736** AAC Surety Bonds for Emerging Contractors. Relaxes the standards of state contracting for certain prospective contractors who are unable to meet the surety bond requirements. CBIA is still gathering information about this measure, its impact, and its support among legislators.
- **SB-935** AAC The Elimination of State Financial Assistance for Companies that Reduce Retirement Benefits. We have continually opposed this measure each time it has been introduced. We plan to do the same this year.

Last week, a new study was released on the impact of Paid Sick Leave (PSL) on San Francisco businesses. The study was done by a group of advocates for the PSL mandate. CBIA has been discussing the study and its findings with various media outlets.

Please contact Kia Murrell at Kia.Murrell@cbia.com for information regarding Labor.

Spending & Taxes (Bonnie Stewart) - There are very few appropriations or tax matters so far, but that will all change with the Governor's Budget Address on Wednesday.

There are a couple of tax matters being heard this week.

On Tuesday, the Commerce Committee is holding a public hearing and on the agenda is **SB-899** ACC The Use Of Research And Development Tax Credits For Projects In Enterprise Zones.

Today the Planning & Development Committee has a public hearing and on the agenda is **HB-5256** AAC Receipt By Electronic Mail Of Municipal Tax Bills. This would allow the towns to send tax bills electronically if they have the tax payers consent.

The Planning & Development Committee also has a public hearing on Friday. On the agenda is **HB-6260** AAC The Jeopardy Collection Of Taxes. It requires that when a town tries to collect a jeopardy tax early, it must state in writing the reason for the early collection.

On Wednesday the Governor is giving his Budget address and CBIA will try to send out a quick overview with key points on the budget and tax package by Friday.

The Appropriations Committee will be meeting on Wednesday following the Governor's address and on Thursday will hold a briefing on the budget.

On Friday, the Finance Committee will meet for the first time to raise concepts. CBIA will send out the list of concepts in next week's Monday Morning Group minutes.

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com for information regarding Spending & Taxes.

Transportation (Eric Brown) - The Transportation Committee has a public hearing today with not many business-related bills on the agenda. On Friday however, they will hold a public hearing and on the agenda are a number of bills regarding tolling (**SB-31, HB-5949, HB-6136, HB-6200**) and use of the Special Transportation Fund (**SB-696, SB-699, SB-773**).

On Thursday a bill regarding new governance for Bradley Airport (**SB-925**) will be heard by the Commerce Committee.

Please contact Eric Brown at Eric.Brown@cbia.com for information regarding Transportation.

Connecticut Business Day is scheduled for [Wednesday, March 9](#) – SAVE THE DATE and register today! In addition to a keynote speaker, the morning will include four issue break-out sessions: Energy/Environment, Labor, Tax/Budget and Small Business. More details to follow.

For other information, check out "[Inside the Capitol](#)," CBIA's public policy blog.