



CHESTER COUNTY CHAMBER
of Business & Industry
- Chamber of Influence -

b2brief

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From my desk to yours...



Business owners continue to share with me their concerns about the political environment and the uncertainty this brings about as they try to conduct business and provide jobs. While we have a long way to go, there are a couple of items that I will mention in this month's b2brief that has us heading in the right direction. Below you will see that we have made a significant step forward in lawsuit abuse reform with the passage from the House on the Fair Share Act. While this still needs to go through the Senate and be signed by the Governor, the House Bill is strong and we are hopeful for a positive outcome on this first step towards legal reform. The repeal of the 1099 reporting requirements is also an important step towards removing burdensome reporting requirements for our small business owners. While these are just two recent accomplishments, they are significant and we should congratulate our elected officials who are working towards providing a more positive environment in which to conduct business. The last b2brief talked a lot about our State Budget. We are currently working on some suggestions, both funding and regulatory related, to offer the Governor as he finalizes the budget. Stay tuned....

Your President and CEO

Nancy Keefer CCE

Volunteers Needed for PFEW 2011

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week, the award-winning business education program for high school juniors and seniors, is in need of team mentors ("Company Advisors") for its upcoming four sessions in July and August.

Every team has a volunteer "Company Advisor" who is their "consultant" for the week. No particular background is required, only a sincere interest in helping young people prepare for their futures and understand the wonders of our free enterprise system.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this rewarding week with some of the most energetic young men and women in Pennsylvania, please visit the PFEW website at www.pfew.org, click on the Volunteers tab, and sign up for a week that you will never forget. For additional information, you can also contact Ms. Karen Musante, vice president of the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education, the sponsoring organization of PFEW at karen@pfew.org.



Senator Dinniman Shares His Views

The Chamber recently received a letter from Senator Dinniman expressing his views on business taxes and the budget negotiations currently taking place. To read his letter [click here!](#)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Looking for a chance to get rid of old batteries, paint cans, and pesticides? Check out recycling events on **May 21 at Owen J. Roberts Middle Road**, and **September 10 at New Garden Township Maintenance Building**. In addition to the items above, if old computers are clogging up your storage space you can dispose of them on **June 24 at CAT Brandywine Campus in Coatesville** or **October 8 at the Government Service Center in West Chester**.

[Click here](#) for details on event times, locations and acceptable items.

Spirit of Free Enterprise Award Recipients Announced

Congratulations to **Congressmen Gerlach** and **Pitts** on being recognized by the US Chamber with the coveted Spirit of Enterprise Award. This prestigious award is in its 23rd year and has been given annually to Members of Congress based on key business votes outlined in the US Chamber's yearly publication, *How They Voted*. Those Members of Congress who support the Chamber's position on at least 70% of those votes qualify to receive the award.

To find out about how our elected officials voted on important business legislation visit the appropriate website for the **House** and the **Senate** Score Cards.

Again, thank you for voting on a pro-business agenda!

HB 1 Moves From the House to the Senate

HB 1, known as the Fair Share Act, recently passed by the house has taken a significant step forward to improve our Commonwealth's legal system. The Fair Share Act provides reasonable reforms to the rule of Joint and Several Liability.

According to the National Federation of Independent Business in Pennsylvania, six out of every 10 businesses feel they would be able to increase revenues if they were assured they would be protected from frivolous lawsuits.

- 80% would improve facilities or purchase new equipment
- 76% would increase compensation to employees
- 69% would expand the market for what they offer
- 65% would increase benefits offered to employees
- 63% would hire additional employees
- 56% would develop new products or services.

Check out this [video](#) on how lawsuit abuse impacts you.



Please thank our house members who voted in support of this bill.

*Representatives
Barrar, Kampf, Killion,
Lawrence, Milne, Ross,
Schroder and Truitt.*



News to Share?

If you would like to submit information to share with our membership through this new monthly publication, I would love to hear from you. Note, this is not meant to be a "sales pitch" rather information that can be helpful to our membership. If I use the information, you will be recognized in the content of the article as to where the information came from so you will receive some recognition for your efforts. As an "editor's priveledge", I do reserve the right to pick and choose content that fits the mission of the publication.

Drop me a line at nkeefe@cccbi.org, or better yet an article or link to a resource I can share with our members.

1099 Reporting Requirements Repealed

President Barack Obama signed into law the Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011 (HR 4; 1099 Act), which repeals both the expanded Form 1099 information reporting requirements mandated by last year's health care legislation and also the 1099 reporting requirements imposed on taxpayers who receive rental income enacted as part of last year's Small Business Jobs Act (PL 111-240). The Senate approved the bill on April 5, and the House voted in favor of it on March 3.

Many of you may remember that this onerous legislation was included as part of the health care reform act approved with much controversy last year. This bill would have forced millions of businesses to file tax forms for every vendor selling them more than \$600 in goods each year, starting in 2012. The Chamber communicated our position to our elected officials asking for their support in repealing this legislation. In a letter to our **Chairman of the Board Brian DiSabatino, Senator Toomey** thanked the Chamber for providing valuable input on this issue and communicated his vote in February to repeal the 1099 Reporting Requirements stating "This provision places an unnecessary, costly burden on small businesses at a time when we desperately need them expanding and growing". Please make sure to thank **Senator Toomey** for this important vote



Did you know....?

Whether you are ready or not, social media continues to be a hot topic for business. Here are just a few of the stats I recently saw in an email from browser media.

Twitter - In January 2010 Twitter had 75 million user accounts, but only 15 million used the site regularly. This resulted in 27 million Tweets per day. Now, there are more than 175 million registered Twitter users. How many of these are regular users is unclear, but the number of Tweets per day has rocketed to 95 million - an increase of 250 percent.

LinkedIn - has grown by an impressive 100 percent from last year, it now has over 100 million users across the globe. Interestingly, 56% of these users are from outside of the US. The average age of the LinkedIn user is 41.

Facebook - The ever-growing behemoth that is Facebook has shown some impressive growth over the last year. Back in January 2010, the site had 350 million active users across the globe, it now has in excess of 640 million - half of which login daily. Based on this figure, Facebook has seen a 40 percent increase in daily usage over the past 12 months.

If you are wondering what all of this means to your business, you might want to check out our upcoming workshop series "**Solve Your Online Puzzle**". [Click here](#) for details!



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