

# The 2009 Greater New Haven and Greater Meriden Legislative Agenda

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## 2009 Greater New Haven Regional Legislative Agenda

As approved by the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, the Workforce Alliance, Regional Growth Partnership, South Central Regional Council of Governments, South Central CT Regional Alliance, Greater New Haven Convention and the Visitors Bureau, Arts Council of Greater New Haven and New Haven Manufacturers Association.

### The Goal: Balanced and Sustainable Economic Growth for Connecticut

Even in an uncertain economic climate, Connecticut must keep its eye on economic competitiveness and build on its strengths. The 2009 Regional Legislative Agenda, a statement approved by eight regional agencies in Greater New Haven, calls for a balance between prudent fiscal management and a strategy for the future that includes workforce readiness, infrastructure investments, integrated tax policies, and job growth.

To make legislative action as effective as possible, the 2009 Agenda is limited to six priorities that are keys to maintaining economic opportunity and growth.

#### Economic Development

Favor proposals which strengthen previous investment, whether public or private, and comply with development and transportation plans including the State Economic Development Strategic Plan now in preparation, in order to make the best use of existing infrastructure. Strengthen funding for State PILOT and College & Hospital PILOT to encourage growth of the major economic drivers in our region.

#### Energy/Technology

Encourage a competitive electricity procurement process and support development of alternative

energy sources that ensure reliable and affordable sources of energy to reduce the burden of energy costs on business.

Spur competition in the communications industry and stimulate investment in high-technology infrastructure by equalizing regulation among competing providers and revising or eliminating outdated rules and regulations that do not impact customers.

#### Transportation

Strengthen interstate and regional access by increasing operating and capital support for Tweed-New Haven Airport, initiating commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, implementing priority projects to ease highway congestion, and supporting a parking garage/mixed use development at Union Station.

#### Arts/Entertainment/Tourism

Preserve funding for the Commission on Culture and Tourism to ensure a robust tourist and culture economy, which provides employment for over 170,000 people and generates over \$14 billion in economic activity in Connecticut. Tourism, arts and culture are critical to enhancing the region's economic vitality and enriching the lives of our citizens.

#### Workforce/Manufacturing

Keep the state workforce skilled and competitive by investing in incumbent worker training through existing Workforce Investment Boards to make Connecticut's businesses more productive and competitive.

Promote recognition in public policy of the special role of manufacturers in the economy to ensure that manufacturers are valued by state and local government for their revenue productivity, their highly skilled workforces, and their capacity for indirect job creation.

#### Health Care

Make quality affordable health care available to all state residents by supporting initiatives that: improve access to affordable health insurance coverage; increase Medicaid rates and State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) rates to equal the cost of patient care; and develop funding sources dedicated to health care quality and patient safety.

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## 2009 Greater Meriden Chamber Legislative Agenda

The following specific items were added to the New Haven Regional Agenda by the Board of Directors of the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce at their regular Board meeting of January 14, 2009.

- Seek Approval of Funding** for the:
  - Hub Reuse project,
  - Intermodal Transit Center,
  - Factory H Remediation and Reuse,
  - Harbor Brook Flood Control Project,
  - West Main Street Streetscape Project and
  - Hanover Pond dredging.
  
- Maintain Funding For Education** – with an emphasis on Regionalism as a part of the solution.
  
- Facilitate **Undercliff Property Transfer** to the City of Meriden for Economic Development Purposes.
  
- Secure funding and tax credits for the **Chamberlain Heights Housing Project** as a necessary precedent to addressing the needs of the residents of the Mills housing project.
  
- Seek support for **Early Childhood Blueprint** as a way to benefit children and yield great savings in the future.