The Greater New Haven Region is poised to grow. Connecticut’s public policies have the potential to put people to work, create new high paying jobs, diversify our economy, and support growth across all of our communities. On behalf of our region’s business community, these are our priorities:

1 | MOBILIZE OUR WORKFORCE

Every effort needs to be made to address workforce shortages that exist at nearly every level of our economy. Connecticut businesses continue to face alarming staff shortages. We ask the legislature to create solutions that will help fill our open jobs and strengthen our workforce.

- Focus on expanding the labor force by eliminating barriers to workforce participation, such as with youth employment, and laws and regulations that disincentivize work and workplace flexibility
- Enforce unemployment rules and ensure that only qualified applicants are receiving benefits
- Provide funding for training programs that directly address business needs and fill talent pipelines, such as expanding the manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit program
- Effectively expand childcare programming and support, issues impacting the workforce

2 | ADVANCE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Advancing transportation continues to be an area of opportunity in the greater New Haven region.

- Continue to support the expansion of Tweed New Haven airport as the state’s primary southern tier airport
- Invest in the Department of Transportation for high-speed rail projects that position New Haven as a key transfer hub, such as reducing commuter rail times from New Haven to New York City
- Work with the private sector to improve access to high quality Internet networks, including for commuters using Connecticut’s public transit system

3 | MAKE SMART INVESTMENTS

Managing and distributing the state and federal relief funding with a focus on economic growth will stabilize and strengthen key business industries and further support Connecticut’s economy.

- Invest federal stimulus money in Greater New Haven in development projects that will add to our economic base
- Create tax policies that encourage business investment in the Greater New Haven region, such as through expanding the R&D tax credit
- Further invest and support the Arts, Culture, and Tourism industries for long-term sustainable funding
- Increase partnerships with nonprofit Human Service providers to maintain cost-effective, quality essential services as the state’s workforce faces unprecedented retiree numbers
- Establish a Connecticut Rare Disease Advisory Council (CTRDAC), providing a platform for the rare disease community to make recommendations to the state government
4 | LOWER THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

With an improved state budget, it is time to further support our businesses through altering the tax structure, lowering the cost of regulatory compliance, and streamlining bureaucratic regulations in place.

- Avoid legislation that adds excessive oversight and regulation, and explore areas to reduce pressures and costs on businesses
- Create a more competitive Connecticut by strengthening the vibrancy of its towns and cities through public-private partnerships that stimulate economic growth
- Engage the business community to assess the impact of legislation and continually evaluate the progress of programs, such as paid family medical leave
- Relieve pressure on businesses by fully funding the Unemployment Trust Fund through federal corona virus relief funding

5 | INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Continue to make investments in BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/People of Color) owned businesses. Special attention needs to be paid towards capacity building, while maintaining an emphasis on expanding access and opportunity.

- Create additional programs to improve access to capital and development resources for BIPOC owned businesses
- Ensure economic growth is occurring at the same pace in minority communities by directly investing in businesses in economically distressed areas
- Increase supplier diversity programs for the State’s own procurement
- Fund developer pipeline and trade apprenticeship programs to prepare BIPOC developers and workers for the infrastructure and housing development dollars coming into the state via federal programs

The Chamber’s Regional Legislative Agenda continues to be a work in progress as issues arise. Please contact pservices@gnhcc.com if you have any questions or a specific policy concern.