

# ADVOCACY REPORT



**STRONGER BUSINESS  
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

## CHAMBER RESPONDS TO CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT (CEJA)

UTILITY DIVE Deep Dive Opinion Podcasts Library Events Topics

OPINION

### Illinois Chamber: Clean Energy Jobs Act will inflict billions in increased costs on ratepayers



Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch wrote an article for Utility Dive in response to the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) proponents on January 9. “The Illinois Chamber believes that enacting CEJA would inflict billions of dollars in increased energy costs on Illinois ratepayers and strongly cautions the Illinois General Assembly against proceeding with this legislation,” Maisch said.

[See full story here.](#)



## MAISCH AND LAHOOD DISCUSS CURRENT EVENTS

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch interviewed Congressman Darin LaHood (R-Illinois) on current topics including trade, the USMCA, and impeachment proceedings at the Chamber office in Springfield on January 2.

[See full story here.](#)



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If you are interested in learning more about the Illinois Chamber you may [click here](#) to contact Jeanette Anderson

SPRING 2020 | **ADVOCACY REPORT**



“

This issue has been out there for a very, very long time but now it's especially driven by the pension debt that local governments have that has made the problem go from bad to absolutely worse.”

”

—Todd Maisch on lowering property taxes on News Channel 20



## MAISCH TALKS LOWERING PROPERTY TAXES

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch spoke to Nikki McGee from WICS ABC News Channel 20 on the need to lower property taxes on January 27.

[See full story here.](#)



## CAPITOL CONNECTION FOCUSES ON INCOME TAX

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch sat down with WCIA Capitol Bureau Chief Mark Maxwell on Capitol Connection to discuss the impact of a progressive tax versus a flat income tax on January 5.

[See full story here.](#)





“

Voters should not be enticed into voting for the progressive income tax amendment by the promise of token tax decreases that will likely be temporary.

”

—Keith Staats on the graduated income tax in  
Business Leader Magazine



## STAATS PRESENTS ON TAX LEGISLATION

Executive Director Keith Staats of the Chamber Tax Institute gave a presentation on Illinois tax legislation at the Illinois CPA Society Annual State and Local Tax Conference on January 16. The ILCPA Society State and Local Tax Conference is an all-day conference attended by CPAs in private practice and with Illinois companies both in person and online.



## SHATTUCK DISCUSSES RECREATIONAL CANNABIS IN THE WORKPLACE

Illinois Chamber Executive Director of Employment Law Council Jay Shattuck spoke to the St. Louis Regional Chamber on the importance of workplace protection concerning recreational marijuana on January 24.

## JOLIET CHAMBER HOSTS MAISCH

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch spoke with Joliet Chamber members on the continuing urge to oppose the progressive income tax on January 30.



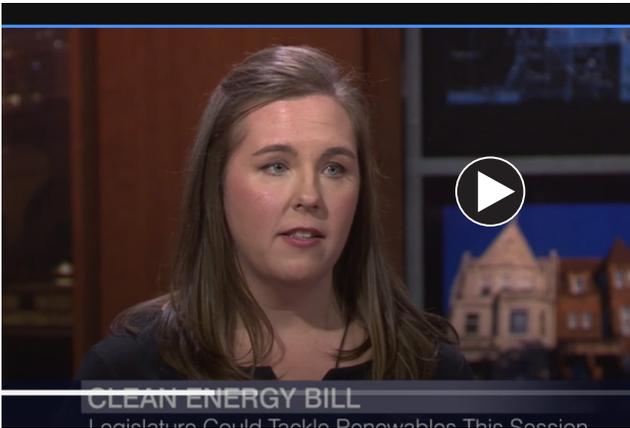


“

The bill includes a significant expansion of ratepayer support of a variety of programs that don't have budgets or cost caps.”

”

—Katie Stonewater on CEJA on Chicago Tonight



## CHAMBER ADVOCATES FOR LOWER ENERGY COSTS

Executive Director of the Chamber Energy Council Katie Stonewater spoke with WTTW - Chicago PBS on the need to keep energy costs down on February 4.

[See full story here.](#)



## DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE ON PROGRESSIVE TAX

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch spoke to Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce at their annual membership meeting about the battle towards the progressive income tax proposal on January 31.



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon  
Chamber of Commerce



“

We are very concerned about the families who are going to lose their stability, their paychecks and their jobs.

”

—Todd Maisch on the stay at home order in the Chicago Tribune



## KAERICHER ADDRESSES MORTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Illinois Chamber Vice President of Government Affairs Clark Kaericher gave a legislative update to Morton Chamber of Commerce members on February 28.

## MAISCH OUTLINES DANGERS OF PROGRESSIVE TAX

Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch discussed the dangers of a progressive income tax in an op ed in The Chicago Sun-Times on February 27. “Taxing millionaires will in no way meet their appetite for state spending. There simply isn’t enough money at the higher income levels to satisfy their demands. Tax rates will go up and tax brackets will reach lower and lower incomes,” Maisch said.

[See full story here.](#)



COMMENTARY POLITICS SPRINGFIELD

### The rest of the nation is rooting for an Illinois progressive income tax

Other states know a progressive tax would be one more self-inflicted blow to the economy of Illinois, certain to drive dollars, jobs and families into their waiting arms.

By Contributor | Feb 27, 2020, 11:21am CST

Todd Maisch

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Gov. J.B. Pritzker is pushing an amendment to the Illinois Constitution to replace the state's flat income tax with a graduated tax. | Rich Heintz/Sun-Times



“

When the companies that develop, finance, or operate electricity in Illinois are not included in drafting legislation, the realities of the industry and how the system operates are often missed.

”

—Alec Messina on CEJA in Energy News

COMMENTARY

## Commentary: Illinois clean energy bill risks reliability, raises costs on consumers

WRITTEN BY



Alec Messina / Illinois Chamber of Commerce  
March 5, 2020

PHOTO BY

Daniel Schwen / Wikimedia Commons



The Illinois Statehouse in Springfield.

## MESSINA TALKS ENERGY HIKES IF CEJA PASSES

Executive Director of the Illinois Chamber Energy Council Alec Messina penned an op ed for Midwest Energy News Network on the need to prevent unprecedented energy rate hikes that could come with the passage of the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). “If CEJA passes, it has the potential of shuttering Illinois’ nuclear fleet because the bill requires electricity prices to be reduced by five percent under today’s prices,” Messina said.



[See full story here.](#)

## OAK BROOK CHAMBER HOSTS TAX INSTITUTE

Executive Director of the Chamber Tax Institute Keith Staats gave a presentation to the Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and other members of the chamber on “The Case Against the Graduated Income Tax” on March 12. The Oak Brook Chamber adopted a resolution expressing their opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment.



## MARCH BUSINESS LEADER AVAILABLE ONLINE

The March 2020 issue of Business Leader magazine is “hot off the press.” This issue includes Debunk Round Two of the Progressive Income Tax; a preview for this year’s Annual Luncheon, an overview of significant bills working their way through the legislation, and more.

[Click here to view entire issue.](#)



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## IN THE NEWS

*Fighting for Business Every Month*

*In the months of January, February and March, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois. Below is a selection of stories where the Chamber has advocated its position on a variety of topics.*

### JANUARY 2020

#### MINIMUM WAGE

- [State set for first increase in minimum wage](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### TAX

- [State leader urges Joliet chamber to oppose tax revamp](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [A blast from the past with one city manager candidate](#)  
– Todd Maisch quoted
- [Property taxes expected to be top priority during spring session](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [New parking tax brings worries to Chamber of Commerce](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [\\$350M pension debt in Springfield - how taxpayers are fronting it](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Maisch: “the flat tax is really the fair tax”](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Likely Congress loss could hit rural areas hard](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Illinois’ rural areas likely to lose representation in Congress due to population losses](#)

#### CANNABIS

- [Illinois Employers, Unions Prep for Legal Marijuana Jan. 1](#)
- [Illinois green rush: how long can we expect to see high sales?](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### TRADE

- [As trade deals come together, business advocate warns Illinois policies could hinder growth](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

- [Think Tanks’ Report Calls For Paid Family Leave](#)
- [Low unemployment rate may not be good news](#)

#### UNION

- [Powerful union pushes for ‘right to work’ ban in Illinois](#)

#### ENERGY

- [Coalition renews Clean Energy Jobs Act push](#)

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### FEBRUARY 2020

#### TAX

- [Illinois Chamber fighting Pritzker progressive income tax proposal](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Lawmaker wants to bring back small business tax credit](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [City services could be impacted by recent store closures](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### CEJA

- [Dueling Opinions on Clean Energy Jobs Act](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition advocates for Clean Energy Jobs Act](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### PAID LEAVE

- [The Push For Paid Family Leave Grows Stronger](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### SMALL BUSINESS

- [Springfield businesses not seeing impact of coronavirus — yet](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### ESGR

- [Treasurer accepts Patriot Award, touts office's cyber security](#)

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### MARCH 2020

#### COVID-19

- [State, federal governments seek ways to lessen COVID-19 economic impact](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [State unemployment claims skyrocket](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Illinois Gov. Pritzker Orders Residents To ‘Stay Home,’ Nonessential Businesses To Close](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [ILLINOIS UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS JUMP BY 64K AS COVID-19 CLOSES BUSINESSES](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [A rookie politician, Gov. J.B. Pritzker confronts the coronavirus pandemic: ‘A switch gets flipped when crises develop’](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Illinois small businesses get a lifeline with grants and loans, but will it be enough to withstand coronavirus?](#) – Todd Maisch quoted
- [Capitol Connection: Sunday, March 29th, 2020](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### PROPERTY TAX- CORONAVIRUS

- [Ill. GOP Asks Gov. For Sales, Property Tax Relief Due To Virus](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### CHAMBER

- [Why We Need Chambers of Commerce Right Now... And Why They Need You!](#) – Todd Maisch quoted

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

- [Jobless numbers up — way up](#) – Todd Maisch quoted



Chamber Member **CoreSite** announced their data facility expansion in the heart of downtown Chicago also known as “CH2.” CoreSite will be one of the first Illinois Chamber members to benefit from the data center incentive.

Illinois Chamber member **Memorial Health System** announced a \$6.1 million investment in partnership with Lincoln Land Community College to renovate LLCC’s Montgomery Hall for a new nursing center. The project is scheduled for completion in May 2021.

Chamber Member **ADM** was named ‘One of the World’s Most Ethical Companies of 2020’ by Ethisphere, a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices.

Chamber member **Advocate Aurora Health** committed to helping their members through the coronavirus crisis by halting patient billing temporarily for those coming to the hospital for testing and treatment regarding COVID-19.

Chamber Member **Amazon.com** is hiring 100,000 employees in the U.S. to meet the surging demand of food and household items due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Chamber Member **Ameren** donated \$250,000 each to the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund (ICRF) and the United Way of Greater St. Louis to support residents and communities impacted by the coronavirus.

Chamber member **Ford Motor Company** is partnering with **3M**, **GE Healthcare** and **UAW International Union** to expand the production of ventilators to help support the coronavirus pandemic.

Chamber member the **Illinois Banker’s Association** teamed up with Governor Pritzker’s administration and other business groups to support new capital access options, along with finding new lending partners, to keep Illinois businesses afloat.

Chamber member **ADM** is giving \$1M for COVID aid, including funds available to employees who face severe financial distress during this pandemic.



CORESITE



amazon.com



3M



GE Healthcare



ILLINOIS **B** BANKERS™