

## **Serve as a voice for business with government and community partners throughout the region.**

The Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee is focused on implementing programming and providing resources to our members based on the following components:

1. Enhance awareness of elected officials of the public policy needs of the regional business community.
2. Increase member awareness of legislative advocacy to promote pro-business policies, programs and services.
3. Establish regional public affairs partnership.



## **2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce works closely with local, regional and state officials to offer support and to advocate on behalf of its members. The Chamber puts the needs of the business community at the forefront of its advocacy efforts by helping to ensure a positive governmental climate for business growth and development.

### **Contact Us**

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**ATTRACT. SUSTAIN. GROW.**

## COMMUNITY

- Fund and establish Amtrak passenger rail service from Scranton to NY City.
- Enhance and fund accessible infrastructure inclusive of the maintenance, repair, and expansion needs of roads, bridges, public transit systems, freight rail, and airports.
- Foster equitable access to information and opportunities by promoting telecommunications/broadband/ 5G network connectivity across our region, with a special emphasis in rural areas.
- Support local flood control projects and storm/sanitary water management improvements.
- Promote coordinated regional land use and economic development planning with a focus on downtown walkability.
- Invest in economic development efforts that incorporate community-based blight remediation.
- Promote improvements to licensing and permitting that enhance economic development at the municipal and state levels.
- Support additional government contracts for certified/licensed industrial enterprises inclusive of the aerospace industry.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Promote public-private partnerships that serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurial development for individuals and businesses representing all constituencies in our region.
- Undertake initiatives to expand the regional entrepreneurial eco-system throughout Lackawanna County and across Northeast Pennsylvania.
- Support the re-establishment/renovation of the Carbondale Technology Transfer Center as a home for light industrial and commercial food innovation/entrepreneurship.
- Provide access to capital to help sustain(existing) and grow (new) businesses in Lackawanna County.

## WORKFORCE

- Establish Business-Education Career Pathways partnerships for K-12 students.
- Fund initiatives designed to attract/maintain professional talent within the regional workforce.
- Establish/promote internships and apprenticeships for regional secondary and post-secondary students.
- Address the systemic challenges of Childcare in the workforce.
- Promote development of regional professional certification and training programs.
- Loosen the restrictions on federal and state workforce funds to allow for use tied to local needs/priorities.
- Support increased funding of scholarships for PELL eligible students.
- Provide early childhood education funding for middle-class families.
- Develop and implement policies that facilitate integration of immigrants into the workforce.
- Explore and implement initiatives to increase affordable housing supply for workers.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Support steps to increase the useful inventory of available Industrial sites.
- Address the job creating physical plant needs of SLIBCO facilities.