Connecticut Legislative Update
JUNE 2019

Issues Update:
The 2019 legislative session officially closed on June 5th with the passage of landmark legislation and a budget that put approximately 2 billion into the rainy day fund and included many tax increases. We knew in January that the session would be difficult, and given the progressive make up of the General Assembly, it proved to be correct. The Democrats were emboldened with the number of seats they gained in the November election and felt it was their duty to enact certain measures to execute the “public’s will”. Minimum Wage and the Paid Family Medical Leave were the two most important items exemplifying this credo.

Both Minimum Wage and Paid Family Medical Leave passed easily and with no real regard for the business community and how the laws would adversely impact them. The minimum wage increase begins in October and climbs $1.00 per year, and Paid Family Medical Leave has one of the broadest definitions of family in the United States. Despite massive lobbying and grassroots efforts, the progressive legislature prevailed. It will take a lot for business to adjust to these new laws both financially as well as administratively.

Newly elected Governor Lamont set the adoption of tolls as one of his priorities in order to help the failing transportation system. Fighting against a strong coalition called No Tolls CT, as well as most of the business community, Lamont and Democratic legislators were unable to secure the passage of tolls in the regular session. Governor Lamont has hopes to call the legislature into Special Session to deal with this topic, but we feel it will be difficult once rank and file legislators return to their districts and are bombarded with constituents.

Other major pieces of legislation that failed during the course of the session was the legalization of marijuana and expansion of casinos. Both of those issues will be back in full force next legislative session.

In the off session, LDAC will be meeting with legislators and members, especially those that are newly elected, as well as officials in the Lamont administration to continue to form relationships in preparation for next session. Yard tours will be a big part of that effort. In addition we will look to strengthen our grassroots efforts as we anticipate further anti business issues will be afoot. If you are not active already, we urge you to become so now. This is an important time for the CT business community and each and every voice counts.

Questions?
Please contact Kirk Ives, Director of Government Affairs at 518-880-6376 or kives@nrla.org.