



Message from the Chairman

BY GARY STOCKBRIDGE

Looking back on last year and the legislative session, I am very proud of our accomplishments advocating for Delaware businesses. Our new leader, Mike Quaranta, hit the ground running and has done a fantastic job guiding our organization and working to better align the business community. We saw several items passed that will make

a big difference for businesses and communities across Delaware, including the Angel Investor Tax Credit and a significant, one-time bump in capital improvement spending, to the tune of more than \$300 million. Looking to 2019, I look forward to Mike's continued leadership as we continue to collaborate with organizations across the state to build on this progress, with a focus on tackling health care costs, furthering policies to support our business community, and continuing to strengthen our voice in Dover.

The Chamber is actively engaged in reigning in the costs of health care for businesses, both as an internal priority through the Board of Governors and externally through partnerships with stakeholder groups, like the Delaware Center for Healthcare Innovation (DCHI). We are excited about this partnership and are working with DCHI to bring the employer per-

spective on health care and associated costs to help find a solution that controls spending and optimizes outcomes for employees and businesses.

We have also formed a strong partnership with the State through the Delaware Prosperity Partnership to create effective solutions for our economy. Teaming up through this new public-private partnership is proving to be an effective tool to attract new businesses and advance an entrepreneurial culture in Delaware, which is helping us deliver on our commitment to create a more business-friendly environment and promote economic development.

We are also collaborating with chambers across the state to create an agenda to promote in Dover for the next General Assembly session that will further policies supporting our business community. From workforce development to streamlining the permitting process, we believe these items will enjoy bipartisan support, as they are good for employers and employees, and will help Delaware remain a vibrant and exciting place to live and work.

We are continuing to strengthen our voice in Dover and you may have noticed that we are engaging more on social media to tell the stories of successful businesses in Delaware. It is more important than ever to share the stories of Delaware's workers and businesses – and our impact on the economy and communities across the state. We need your continued help sharing these stories and letting elected officials know how legislation impacts you and your business. If you haven't yet, follow the Chamber on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to join the conversation.

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