



## 2018 CAPITAL REGION ADVOCACY AGENDA FOR PROSPERITY

### TOP THREE PRIORITIES:

**Business Climate Improvement:** The Chamber will advocate for regulatory reforms that will improve the state's current business climate. Included in an extensive list of reforms that will assist businesses and employers, we will fight for the following: the reduction of small business taxes; the reduction of taxes, surcharges and assessments the state imposes on employers and individuals who purchase health insurance; and the reform of the Wicks Law which subjects most public projects to separate bidding requirements for HVAC, plumbing and electric contracts. Unless meaningful action is taken, New York State's business climate will not improve.

**Scaffold Law Reform:** The Chamber will be a vocal advocate for the reform of the Scaffold Law. This law holds property owners, employers, and contractors liable for gravity-related injuries that happen on the job even if the employee contributed to their injuries. This New York only law costs taxpayers \$800 million and drives up the cost of doing business in our state by \$1.49 billion annually.

**Energy Policy:** New York State consumers pay some of the highest energy prices in the nation. Additionally, the Capital Region is faced with critical natural gas supply constraints and these constraints are becoming more serious as demand has outstripped supply. A consequence of these limitations in bringing electricity to the Capital Region from power producers outside of our region is higher energy prices. As demand for energy continues to grow, natural gas is becoming increasingly important for New York consumers and businesses. The Chamber will advocate for upgrading the state's high-voltage electric transmission system and policies that increases access to natural gas for manufacturing facilities, power production, transportation, and other purposes to support New York's economy and quality of life.