



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Mobile Area Chamber Takes New Approach to Advocacy Efforts in 2019**

- Mobile Area Chamber takes statewide view for its 2019 legislative agenda
- Launching Legislative Action Items that will be updated in real-time on the Chamber's website
- Photos available from today's luncheon

[Mobile, Ala., 02.07.2019] The Mobile Area Chamber presented its 2019 Legislative Agenda to a business audience of more than 140, with 19 elected officials in attendance at the organization's Legislative Lunch today.

Key points from this year's agenda include:

- issues supporting the Chamber's economic development role as it relates to the Port of Mobile;
- fair, free and reciprocal trade; and
- a competitive tax code.

**Kellie Hope**, the Chamber's vice president of community and governmental affairs, says, "Other areas of significance include increasing access to local beaches via infrastructure improvements; increasing jobs through new and existing economic development projects; and workforce training."

"Mobile plays a unique and important role in Alabama's economy and we will be calling for more statewide support when it comes to issues affecting the our region," said **Craig Savage**, with Austal USA, who serves as the Mobile Area Chamber's chair of its state governmental affairs committee, who presented this year's legislative priorities.

"In the agenda, you'll find detailed information about "why" we work so hard to impact policies from Washington to Montgomery and the City of Mobile," said Savage. In addressing the "how" of the Chamber's advocacy efforts, Savage announced the Chamber is launching a Legislative Action Items section on its website,

<https://mobilechamber.com/community-government-affairs/legislative-action-items>, with specific legislative issues the organization has followed in previous years and will update progress in real-time.

Three examples of what the Chamber will continue to focus on in 2019 are:

- the state gas tax critical to the area's roads and bridges that has remained flat since 1992;
- the economic development ethics bill, which sunsets this year; and is needed for site selectors and economic developers, including the Chamber, to maintain a competitive edge; and
- investor credits to spur entrepreneurial growth.

Business Council of Alabama's new President Katie Britt was the keynote speaker during the luncheon and highlighted her first days in her new position and BCA priorities for 2019.

"I believe the three keys to achieving this are innovation, education and infrastructure," said Britt. "In just a single generation, innovations in technology have transformed the way we live, work, play and do business. Alabama possesses a history of fostering brilliance and inspiring great ideas that have lasting, worldwide impact."

This year's regular legislative session kicks-off on Tuesday, March 5, and is scheduled to conclude on June 18.

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The full 2019 Legislative Agenda Report is on the Chamber's website: <https://mobilechamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Legislative-Agenda-02042019.pdf>. Also online is the Legislative Action Items that can be found at <https://mobilechamber.com/community-government-affairs/legislative-action-items>.

#### **About the Mobile Area Chamber**

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce is a private business organization with 1,900 members that employ 105,000 people, and the economic developer of record for the City of Mobile and Mobile County. We represent business interests of the Mobile region, advocating for business-friendly legislative policies and serve as a resource for small businesses and area entrepreneurs. Additional information is on the Chamber's website at [www.mobilechamber.com](http://www.mobilechamber.com), Facebook @MobileChamber, Twitter and YouTube at @MobileChamber, Instagram @Mobile\_Area\_Chamber and LinkedIn @Mobile Area Chamber.