

Subject: Monday Morning Group Minutes
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CBIA Monday Morning Group

January 10, 2011-- Issue #1-11

Next meeting – **Tuesday, January 18** (*Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day*)

Welcome back . The meeting opened with an open discussion of the top issues expected this year. Overwhelmingly, all agreed that the primary issue will be taxes and the budget. Some companies mentioned workers' compensation as well.

Special elections Tuesday, February 22 – Elections will be held to fill all nine open legislative seats. If you have any information on announced candidates, please share it with CBIA staff.

Committee leaders and deadlines. Here is the updated [list of committee leaders](#) and this year's deadlines.

Key Issues

At this early stage, here is look at what CBIA staff expects will be the key issues (among others) to be taken up in during the session:

Environment (Eric Brown)

- Brownfield redevelopment
- Follow-up to last year's regulatory reform (implementation issues)
- Stream flow regulations
- Toxic chemicals
- DEP funding

Transportation (Eric Brown) – Bradley International Airport – the Governor has indicated this is one of his priorities; another top issue will be transportation funding.

Energy (Kevin Hennessy) – It's anticipated that some version of last year's vetoed electricity bill will be revisited.

Judiciary (Kevin Hennessy) – There is an organizational meeting of the committee today, and there is new leadership for the committee. Continued focus is expected to be on criminal issues and the death penalty.

GAE (Kevin Hennessy) – Co-chair Sen. Slossberg is deeply committed to the Agency Outcomes project and is expected to put forth proposals resulting from the commission's recommendations.

Labor (Kia Murrell) – There is a new House chair and ranking member, along with new faces on the committee. Top issues:

- Mandatory Paid Time Off
- Unemployment taxes to replenish the fund
- Creation of a new state workers' comp fund

Spending & Taxes (Bonnie Stewart) – There is new leadership in the Finance Committee.

Major focus will be on:

- Sales tax, especially exemptions.
- Corporate tax – focus on exemptions and credits, rather than rate.

CBIA will be setting up meetings with key legislators and the CBIA's Tax Committee, as in past years, to help legislators understand the impact of tax policy on businesses. More information will follow as the session progresses.

Health care (Eric George) – Three key committees have new leadership.

- **Insurance Committee** -- Will be addressing the new federal health reform law, and how to integrate state law and policy into it. There is a new House chair. Senator Crisco will propose his Nutmeg Plan, no details yet; he also has submitted a "placeholder" (Senate Bill 55) on health insurance "exchange" implementation.
- **Public Health Committee** (No Senate co-chair has been named) Sustinet implementation – likely to be a phased-in process.
- **Human Services Committee** (New co-chairs); Likely to look at expanding Medicaid

Education (Louis Bach) – New co-chair; committee expected to focus on how to address the state's educational achievement gap.

Commerce (Louis Bach) – Will meet on Tuesday at 11 a.m.

[Click here](#) for the CGA bulletin, listing committee meetings.

Connecticut Business Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9 – SAVE THE DATE! In addition to a keynote, the morning will include four issue break-out sessions: Energy/environment, Labor, Tax/budget and Small Business. More to follow.

