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## Minnesota Chamber chosen the nation's #1 state chamber

*Reaffirms their century-long reputation as the collective voice of business*

St. Paul, MN (11/09/21) – The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce announced today that it was selected as 2021's State Chamber of the Year by the national Council of State Chambers of Commerce. The award recognizes the Minnesota Chamber for its innovative initiatives and best practices that advance the state's economy and provide exceptional services and results for members.

**"The strength of any member organization comes from the strength of its members,"** said Doug Loon, President and CEO of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. **"We are proud to represent Minnesota's business community – one that helps create opportunity and quality of life for citizens in every corner of our state."**

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce has provided a voice – the collective voice – for businesses for more than 110 years. They have fostered their vision of a future for business that improves the lives of all Minnesotans by successfully shaping Minnesota's economy and helping businesses thrive and grow within the state.

**"With the average Chamber member being a member for more than 30 years, our support is deep and rewarding,"** said Loon. **"We cherish our role as a connection point for the business community, advocating for policies that make Minnesota more competitive, and fostering growth of individual businesses and the economy as a whole."**

Key accomplishments in 2021 included:

- Leading policy and grassroots efforts that helped businesses throughout the pandemic and recover from the steep economic downturn. A key item was helping to secure \$409 million for the 190,000 businesses that accepted [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) loans](#).
- Providing timely, useful advocacy, one-on-one assistance and resources to businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chamber's [COVID-19 Business Toolkit](#) is a dynamic digital resource, providing up-to-date [guidelines](#), [best practices](#), [checklists](#), [20 webinars on policies, employment, vaccines](#) and [hundreds of funding options](#).
- Releasing tangible, useful data on the economy to help businesses survive and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including the [Business Benchmarks report](#), [Blueprint for Economic Recovery](#), the [Economic Contributions of Immigrants in Minnesota](#), the [Minnesota: 2030 report](#), and an [economic dashboard](#) that tracks real-time indicators.
- Leading solutions on workforce that include advancing strategies to promote diversity and inclusion through the Minnesota Chamber Foundation.
- [Launching a suite of 14 business services and products](#) that bring down costs, and retain and attract workers.
- Continuing unique programs to support businesses through the Chamber's Grow Minnesota!, Waste Wise and Energy Smart programs, workforce services and expansion of the Chamber's Foundation.

**“The Minnesota Chamber is an unparalleled statewide business leader, offering real value and getting results for Minnesota employers and employees,”** said Bret Weiss, President and CEO of WSB, and Chair of the Minnesota Chamber’s Board of Directors. **“Our Minnesota Chamber works tirelessly to position our business climate for success. I’m pleased and proud that their work is being recognized nationally.”**

**“The State Chamber of the Year Award is judged by the Minnesota Chamber’s peers from around the country, and winning this award shows that the Minnesota Chamber is a leader and an innovator,”** said Lew Ebert, Executive Director of the National Association of State Chambers. **“This recognition is especially meaningful given the challenges businesses and business organizations have faced over the last 18 months. We congratulate the Minnesota Chamber on a job well done.”**

**“Chambers of Commerce are key in uniting the business community to advance a state’s economy,”** said Florida Chamber of Commerce President and CEO and the National Association of State Chambers President Mark Wilson. **“Under the great leadership of President and CEO Doug Loon, this recognition as top state chamber is well deserved, as the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce demonstrates best practices daily and serves as a role model for all state chambers.”**

Year-long celebrations of the Chamber of the Year award will kick off at the Minnesota Chamber’s [2021 Economic Summit on November 18](#).

*The Minnesota Chamber is the largest broad-based business organization in Minnesota, representing more than 6,300 businesses of all types and sizes – and more than half a million employees – throughout Minnesota. The Chamber works tirelessly for its members; providing one-on-one business services, opportunities to grow their networks and knowledge base, and cultivating an economic environment where businesses stay and grow in our state. A business climate that allows for innovation and forward-thinking leadership will help grow the strength of Minnesota’s economy for generations to come.*

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