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"Message to our Members"

From President/CEO Randy Zook

Your State Chamber/AIA is engaged on a whole host of issues that have important implications for the business climate in Arkansas – severance taxes, sales taxes, tax exemptions, unemployment insurance, water plans, energy policy, broadband access, tort reform, education/workforce development, environmental regulation to name a few.

Your support of our efforts starts with your dues for which we say thanks. You make our work possible and we are always looking for ways to give you better value for your investment. We also count on your efforts to directly contact your legislators and Congressional delegation to weigh-in, with good information, in support of positions we are advocating. At the end of the day, that's our mission, make sure government – at every level – realizes: "Business matters."

Thank you for your help and support.

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Register Now for Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner

The 2012 Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner is set for April 18-19. Briefings are scheduled at the hotel for Thursday morning, April 19. Other meetings and individual congressional events will precede the reception and dinner that evening. Our base hotel this year is the Crowne Plaza Airport.

To **register**, click [here](#).

Sponsors and their levels for the Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner include **Nucor** and **Walmart Stores Inc.**, Dinner; **Nabholz Construction Corp.**, VIP Reception; **AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company**, **Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance**, **The Pine Bluff Regional Chamber of Commerce** and **Weyerhaeuser**, Gold; **Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce**, Silver; **Domtar**, Bronze and **ACCE**, In-Kind.

For information on sponsorships, contact Bill Watson at 501-802-1740 or bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Deb Mathis at dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-210-4212.

Please note the change in location. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Crystal Gateway Marriott was not available. The Crowne Plaza is located in the same area and also has access to the underground and Metro.

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State Chamber/AIA to Host Legislative Reception on February 13

The State Chamber/AIA will host a Legislative Reception from 4 – 6 p.m. on Monday, February 13 in our Conference Room. The reception will coincide with the beginning of the Arkansas General Assembly's Budget Session.

Last year's Legislative Reception drew approximately 300 attendees including legislators, constitutional officers, lobbyists and State Chamber/AIA members.

Reservations will be required to attend this event. If you've not already registered and wish to attend, contact Deb Mathis at dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-210-4212.

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Next Leadership Arkansas Class VI Session Scheduled for Rogers

Leadership Arkansas Class VI will next meet in Rogers. Session VI, covering the Northwest Arkansas Economy/Healthcare, will be held March 15-16 at Mercy Hospital.

Other sessions planned for Leadership Arkansas Class VI include:

- **Session V** – Northeast/Delta Economy, May 17-18 - Blytheville

- **Session VI** – Central Arkansas Economy/Leadership Arkansas Class VI Graduation, June 21-22 – Camp Robinson – North Little Rock

Leadership Arkansas is sponsored by **Southern Bancorp**.

For information on sponsoring any of these sessions, contact Bill Watson at 501-802-1740 or bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com.

For additional information on Leadership Arkansas, contact Susie Marks at 501-210-4206 or smarks@arkansasstatechamber.com.

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Don't Miss the 2012 Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference

The 2012 Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference will be held from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock.

The State Chamber/AIA is partnering with the following resource partners: U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE, Office of Senator Mark Pryor, Office of Congressman Tim Griffin, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Minority Business Development Roundtable, Arkansas Minority & Women Contractors' Association, Arkansas-Mississippi Minority Supplier Development Council, Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center, Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center, Arkansas Women's Business Center, National Federation of Independent Business, UAPB-Economic Research and Development Center and Women's Business Council –Southwest.

The Procurement Conference is presented in partnership with **Tyson Foods, Inc., Entergy Arkansas, Inc., Bank of the Ozarks** and **Securitas Security Services Inc.**

For information on Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference sponsorships, contact Bill Watson at 501-802-1740 or bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com.

To register as a buyer, seller or exhibitor, click [here](#). For additional information on the Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference, contact Susie Marks at 501-210-4206 or smarks@arkansasstatechamber.com.

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Register Now for the 22nd Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon

The State Chamber/AIA will again host the Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon, which honors the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Persons of the Year in Arkansas.

The 22nd Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon will be held from 12 noon until 1:15 p.m. on

Tuesday, April 24 at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock. Roby Brock of Talk Business will emcee the event and Janie Barrerra, president and CEO of ACCION Texas Inc., will be the keynote speaker.

Sponsors and their levels to date include **Arkansas Capital Corporation Group**, Award; **Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield**, **CenterPoint Energy** and **Simmons First National Corporation**, Table; and **Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas**, Patron.

For information on Small Business Awards Luncheon sponsorships or the Luncheon itself, contact Jeff Thatcher at 501-210-4205 or jthatcher@arkansasstatechamber.com.

To register to buy a ticket or a table for the Small Business Awards Luncheon, click [here](#).

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GQA to Provide Two Training Opportunities in February

The Governor's Quality Award Program will provide two training opportunities in February.

If you have thought about applying for a Governor's Quality Award but did not know where to start, this is the class for you! Learn more about the Challenge and Commitment level award requirements, how you can begin the journey, receive recognition for your organization and a feedback report on your application in 2012.

"Applying for a Governor's Quality Award in 2012" will be held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 16th in the State Chamber Conference Room. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a light lunch and training materials. To register, click [here](#).

Do you collect the right performance data for your organization? Are you using the data as leverage for improvement? Using the guidelines of the Criteria for Performance Excellence, discover strategically beneficial data you need, how to measure your results and how to measure your results against the results of your competitors.

"Using Performance Data to Measure Your Success" will be held from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Thursday, February 23rd also in the State Chamber Conference Room. The cost is \$50 per person and includes a light lunch and training materials. To register, click [here](#).

Contact Sue Weather, 501-372-2222 or sweather@arkansasstatechamber.com with questions or for additional information.

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Obama's Enemies List

David and Charles Koch have been the targets of a campaign of vituperation and assault, choreographed from the very top.

By Theodore B. Olson
Wall Street Journal

How would you feel if aides to the president of the United States singled you out by name for attack, and if you were featured prominently in the president's re-election campaign as an enemy of the people?

What would you do if the White House engaged in derogatory speculative innuendo about the integrity of your tax returns? Suppose also that the president's surrogates and allies in the media regularly attacked you, sullied your reputation and questioned your integrity. On top of all of that, what if a leading member of the president's party in Congress demanded your appearance before a congressional committee this week so that you could be interrogated about the Keystone XL oil pipeline project in which you have repeatedly—and accurately—stated that you have no involvement?

Consider that all this is happening because you have been selected as an attractive political punching bag by the president's re-election team. This is precisely what has happened to Charles and David Koch, even though they are private citizens, and neither is a candidate for the president's or anyone else's office.

What Messrs. Koch do, in fact, is manage businesses that provide employment to more than 50,000 people in North America in legitimate, productive industries. They also give millions of dollars to medical researchers, hospitals and cultural institutions. Their biggest offense, apparently, is that they also contribute generously to nonprofit organizations that promote personal liberty and free enterprise, and some of those organizations oppose policies advocated by the president.

Richard Nixon maintained an "enemies list" that singled out private citizens for investigation and abuse by agencies of government, including the Internal Revenue Service. When that was revealed, the press and public were outraged. That conduct will forever remain one of the indelible stains on Nixon's presidency and legacy.

When Joseph McCarthy engaged in comparable bullying, oppression and slander from his powerful position in the Senate, he was censured by his colleagues and died in disgrace. "McCarthyism," defined by Webster's as the "use of unfair investigative and accusatory methods to suppress opposition," will forever be synonymous with un-Americanism. Army counsel Joseph Welch's "Have you no sense of decency?" are words that evoke the McCarthy era and diminish the reputations of his colleagues who did nothing to stand up to him.

In this country, we regard the use of official power to oppress or intimidate private citizens as a despicable abuse of authority and entirely alien to our system of a government of laws. The architects of our Constitution meticulously erected a system of separated powers, and checks and balances, precisely in order to inhibit the exercise of tyrannical power by governmental officials.

Our Constitution even explicitly prohibits bills of attainder so that Congress may not single out individual citizens or groups for disfavored treatment or unequal application of the force of government. Prosecutorial power is rigidly constrained and judicially supervised so that government may not accuse private citizens of crimes or investigate them without good cause.

Whoever may be the victim of such abuse of governmental authority, the press and public almost

invariably unify with indignation against it. If a journalist, labor-union leader or community organizer on the left can be targeted today, an academic or business person on the right can be the target tomorrow. If we fail to stand up against oppression from one direction, we abdicate the moral authority to challenge it when it comes from another.

This is why it is exceedingly important for all Americans to respond with outrage to what the president and his allies are doing to demonize and stigmatize David and Charles Koch. They have been the targets of the multiyear, carefully orchestrated campaign of vituperation and assault described above—and much more. It has been choreographed from the very top. When the president personally takes leadership, his political surrogates and army of allies in the press and Congress quickly and surely follow the direction and tone he sets.

The misuse of government power to damage or demean one's political enemies is abhorrent and the very antithesis of a free society and a government of laws, not men. It is time for the public to ask those engaged in these practices, "Have you no sense of decency?"

Mr. Olson, a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and a former solicitor general of the United States, represents Koch Industries.

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HBS Survey: U.S. Losing Jobs to Overseas as Competitiveness Slips

Boston Business Journal

A Harvard Business School study surveyed 10,000 alumni, finding that most think the U.S. will become less competitive with other nations over the next three years. Of those who decide where to place jobs and facilities, few said they're putting those resources on American soil.

The United States faces a “deepening competitiveness problem” caused by “structural changes” that started long before the recession, according to a report released Wednesday by **Harvard Business School**.

Those changes “threaten to undermine the long-term competitiveness of the U.S.,” according to the report, which surveyed 10,000 HBS alumni. While the American economy is strong in some ways, “it is not keeping pace” with economies in other parts of the world, including those considered emerging economies.

About 1,700 survey respondents said they help decide whether to place businesses and jobs in the U.S. or abroad. In these situations, the U.S. did not fare well. Indeed, the report found, the U.S. lost two-thirds of the time.

Employers offering mass numbers of jobs, high-end work and multiple activities “moved out of the U.S. much faster than they moved in,” the report found.

What are America's greatest weaknesses? Its “tax code, political system, K-12 education system, macroeconomic policies, legal framework, regulations, infrastructure and workforce skills,” the

report read.

The report is the result of a Harvard Business School project spanning several years that explores the intricacies of international competition and its implications for the United States. In October 2011, nearly 10,000 Harvard Business School alumni completed an in-depth survey related to competitiveness, and their responses became the basis for the report released Wednesday, which summarizes the key findings. The full report is available for download [here](#).

Seventy-one percent of survey respondents said they expect U.S. competitiveness to decline in the next three years. Four types of respondents who showed the most pessimism were those in their prime decision-making years, those in the manufacturing sector, those in the United States and those who firms face international competition.

“A fundamentally weakened U.S. economy is not only an American problem but also a global risk. If the U.S. struggles, global growth will falter, the pace of innovation will slow, and the U.S. will find it hard to lead efforts to open the global trading and investment system,” the report said.

An analysis of U.S. competitiveness and “action agendas for restoring America’s economic viability” will be published in the March issue of *Harvard Business Review*.

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ICE Offering Free Immigration Training Program in Memphis

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is offering a free immigration training program, which covers a new brand protection and compliance program.

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Registration at 8:30 am

Training from 9:00 am – 4:15 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Memphis Downtown

185 Union Avenue

Memphis, TN 38103

This day of free training includes topics such as:

- the new IMAGE program,
- Form I-9 training,
- how to establish an immigration compliance program,
- proper hiring procedures,
- detecting fraudulent documents,
- use of E-Verify, and
- anti-discrimination procedures.

ICE can help you comply with the law and develop a more secure and stable work force. In the process, you can protect your brand and market share, while promoting compliance.

To register, click [here](#). To learn more about IMAGE and how it can help you, click [here](#).

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Welcome to Our New Members

Thanks to the following new members which have recently joined the State Chamber/AIA:

Central Arkansas Field Services Inc.
GNB Industrial Power
GSI Solutions
Mars Petcare
MPC Lubricants
Rabb's Construction, LLC
SeaArk Marine
Union Bank & Trust

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Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members

Thanks to all of our Pinnacle investors, the respected companies that support the State Chamber/AIA at the highest annual investment levels. We appreciate all that they do for us.

APEX

Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

SUMMIT

BHP Billiton Petroleum
Cox Communications
Tyson Foods, Inc.
XTO Energy, Inc.

PEAK

Arvest Bank
AT&T Arkansas
CardinalHealth
CenterPoint Energy
Deltic Timber Corporation
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
Isle of Capri Casino
Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC
Nucor/Nucor-Yamato

**Oaklawn Jockey Club
Southland Park Gaming & Racing
Southwestern Energy Company
State Farm Insurance
Verizon Wireless
Welspun Tubular, LLC
Windstream Corporation**

CROWN

**Acxiom Corporation
AEP Southwestern Electric Power
Aerojet Corporation
Albemarle Corporation
America's Car Mart
American Greetings Corporation
Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation
Baldor Electric
BP America, Inc.
Bryce Corporation
Caterpillar Inc.
CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission
The Clorox Company
Coca-Cola Refreshments
Crossland Construction
Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.
Domtar
Evergreen Packaging Company
Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas, Inc.
Fidelity National Information Services
Glad Manufacturing/ A Clorox Company
Hiram Walker/Pernod Ricard USA
International Paper Company
Kimberly-Clark Corporation
Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc.
Kraft Foods
Lennox International
Lion Oil Company
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control
Martin Marietta Materials
McKee Foods Corporation
Murphy Oil Corporation
Nabholz Construction Corporation**

OG+E
Philander Smith College
Riceland Foods, Inc.
Russellville Steel Company Inc.
Scott Equipment Company, LLC
Signature Bank of Arkansas
Stephens Inc.
Southern Bancorp, Inc.
Tri State Truck Center
UAMS
USABLE Life
US Bank
Waste Management
Weyerhaeuser Company
Wright Lindsey & Jennings

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Calendar of Events

February 13	State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception 4 – 6 p.m. State Chamber Conference Room
March 15-16	Leadership Arkansas Class VI Northwest Arkansas Economy/Healthcare Mercy Hospital – Rogers
April 18-19	Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner Crowne Plaza Airport Arlington, Virginia
April 24	Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Verizon Arena North Little Rock
April 24	22 nd Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon 12 noon – 1:15 p.m. Verizon Arena North Little Rock
May 17-18	Leadership Arkansas Class VI Northeast/Delta Economy Holiday Inn - Blytheville
June 21-22	Leadership Arkansas Class VI Central Arkansas Economy/Class VI Graduation

Camp Robinson – North Little Rock

November 14

84th State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting
Wally Allen Ballroom
Statehouse Convention Center – Little Rock

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