

Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

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MEMBER ALERT - PROPOSED SMALL BUSINESS LEGISLATION

Pending legislation would combine the Small Business Administration with the Department of Commerce and give President Obama the power to close the SBA. The SBA is the only federal agency charged with protecting America's 27 million small businesses. Closing SBA could dismantle federal programs aimed at helping small businesses. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, small businesses create more than 90 percent of net new jobs. Small businesses also employ half the private sector workforce and generate more than half the gross domestic product (GDP). Clearly, small businesses are the engine of economic growth. The American Small Business League (ASBL) is hoping Chamber members will contact your senators and ask them not to support any legislation aimed at closing the SBA.

Senator Thomas R. Carper 513 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 202-224-2441

Senator Christopher Coons 127A Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5042

FEEDBACK/COMMENTS WANTED ON NATURAL GAS IN SOUTHERN DELAWARE

Governor Markell has asked Chesapeake Utilities (CUC), Delmarva Power (DPL) and others for input on how natural gas infrastructure can be enhanced in Delaware to help lower energy costs and make the State even more competitive in the region. CUC has asked for our assistance in assessing where the best opportunities are to expand natural gas service. Your input would be extremely valuable. To the extent possible, they want to identify specific areas in the State where there is the best opportunity to increase business investment and create jobs. This applies to all three counties; both DPL's and CUC's gas distribution service territories.

- *Are there specific areas in Sussex County where you feel natural gas infrastructure expansions or improvements would be beneficial? Cities, towns, business parks, even individual sites?
- *Are there specific areas where there are existing industrial/manufacturing businesses that either (a) don't have access today but want it or (b) have access today but not in sufficient capacities to meet expansion plans?
- *Are there specific areas where we have tried to locate new businesses but gas isn't currently available?
- *Are there areas that have been evaluated by prospective businesses who have then selected other sites or States due to the lack of natural gas infrastructure/availability?

Please provide feedback and comments on the above information to Melody Booker (at melody.booker@state.de.us, 302-672-6840, or 302-745-1650) by January 11th.

For a complete Calendar of Events, visit the Chamber website - <u>www.beach-fun.com</u>. If you have questions, please give Carol a call on the member hotline- 227-6446, or her cell phone at 542-7547.