

October 2009

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The health of Minnesota manufacturers is vital to our state economy and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. Nearly one-quarter of our members are in the manufacturing sector. We are your voice and your advocate.

This e-newsletter is distributed to keep you abreast of issues. We welcome your feedback. Please contact Jennifer Byers, vice president of external operations, at (651) 292-4673 or jbyers@mnchamber.com.

Minnesota Manufacturers' Summit
Tuesday, October 20, 2009 | 7:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Manufacturing Opportunities:
Strategies for the Economy Ahead
Hilton Minneapolis | 1001 Marquette Avenue



Join manufacturing and business leaders from across the state to celebrate Minnesota manufacturers. Leave with information that will prepare your company to emerge from the recession poised for growth. We'll take a look at the state and national issues affecting the economy and manufacturing environment, and offer practical strategies to help your company succeed in the economy ahead.

Governor Tim Pawlenty will speak on "Building a Climate for Manufacturing Success in Minnesota." [Click here](#) for a complete agenda.

Registration is \$79 per person, \$600 for a table of 8. [Click here](#) to register online or contact Lisa Engdahl at lengdahl@mnchamber.com or (651) 292-4699.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING ON 2010 AGENDA

Streamlining the environmental permitting system is among the Minnesota Chamber's 2010 legislative priorities. As a result of Chamber-led efforts, the 2009 Legislature passed a requirement for the Pollution Control Agency to report back on options to reduce the cost of, and timetable for, environmental permitting. Our work now is to ensure that recommendations are made and rules enacted.

Minnesota businesses, through policy development sessions and Grow Minnesota! visits, have underscored their frustration with a system that is lengthy, costly and lacks any certainty that a permit will be granted. In general, a permitting process that takes months in other states can take years in Minnesota.

Our efforts at the Capitol are bolstered by firsthand experiences. If you have examples to share, contact Tony Kwilas, director of environment and natural resources policy, (652) 292-4668 or tkwilas@mnchamber.com.

MANUFACTURERS ADVANCE ISSUES WITH FRANKEN





Sixty business leaders representing the Minnesota Manufacturers' Coalition and the Minnesota Chamber Board of Directors had the opportunity to lobby their priorities with U.S. Senator Al Franken, D-Minnesota.

"Our primary focus remains on public policy at the State Capitol," said Jennifer Byers, who manages the Manufacturers' Coalition for the Minnesota Chamber. "At the same time, we recognize the impact that federal initiatives can have on the bottom line of Minnesota companies. This was our opportunity to advance our concerns directly with our senator."

Among the issues discussed were health care, Card Check, climate change and immigration reform. The meeting was September 1 at the Minnesota Chamber offices.



Elizabeth Abraham of Top Tool Co., Minneapolis, and chair of the Minnesota Manufacturers' Coalition, visits with U.S. Senator Al Franken, D-Minnesota.

LINDSAY WINDOW AND DOOR RECEIVES LEADER AWARD

Lindsay Window and Door, North Mankato, received a Leader Award for its initiatives in environmental protection that also have produced savings on its bottom line. The award was presented October 6 by Minnesota Waste Wise, a subsidiary of the Minnesota Chamber that delivers strategic environmental consulting to help businesses save money through waste reduction, resource conservation and energy efficiency.

Lindsay has reduced its trash by more than half since the beginning of 2008, and will likely see more improvement in 2009-2010 with several new waste prevention and recycling initiatives. Lean manufacturing has improved efficiency. And materials such as wood and screen mesh are reused as much as possible in the production process. Since January 2009, Lindsay has recycled approximately 260,000 pounds of glass, 11,700 pounds of bottles, cans, and plastic reels from their production process, and 150,000 pounds of vinyl scrap. Energy efficiency measures resulted in an annual savings of \$7,500.



An employee of Lindsay Window and Door places scrap into a recycling container.

For information on how you can reduce waste and increase energy efficiency at your businesses, contact Kate Worley at Minnesota Waste Wise, (651) 292-4662 or kworley@mnchamber.com.

GROW MINNESOTA! ECONOMIC RECOVERY SERIES

Today's economy is more volatile than ever, but the recovery is coming. Join the Minnesota Chamber as Grow Minnesota!, our private-sector economic development initiative, conducts a series of four events that can help you prepare for and maximize your business growth.

The series:

November 19, 2009, 7:30-9:00 a.m., The Saint Paul Hotel
"Surviving the Recession: Ready to Grow"

Three small businesses discuss their efforts to survive the recession, their preparations for



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growth as the economy recovers and their outlook for the next year.

January 21, 2010, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Summit Brewing Co.

“Cultivating Your Next Opportunity”

March 18, 2010, 7:30-9:00 a.m., The Saint Paul Hotel (tentative)

“Growing Minnesota through Legislative Advocacy at the Capitol”

May 20, 2010, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Summit Brewing Co.

“Is Everyone Working? Why not?”

Reserve your space today. Cost is \$30 per person or \$100 for the series. Register with Lisa Engdahl at (651), 292-4699, (800)821-2230 or lengdahl@mchamber.com or go online at www.mchamber.com.