

Dear Members,

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce wishes you a happy and healthy July 4th weekend as we celebrate the birth of our nation 250 years ago! As America marks this momentous birthday, I find myself reflecting on a simple but powerful truth: our nation's story and the story of business are inseparable.

For 250 years, businesses have helped propel America forward. They have turned ideas into industries, risks into opportunities, and investments into thriving communities. They have created jobs, fueled innovation, and expanded the possibilities of what individuals, families, and regions can achieve.

Here at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, we know that story well. Chicago grew from a frontier outpost into one of the world's great economic centers because generations of entrepreneurs, workers, inventors, and business leaders chose to build something bigger than themselves. Their ambition helped shape not only our region, but the nation itself.

That tradition continues today. Across the Chicago region, businesses of every size are investing in people, creating jobs and opportunity, solving problems, and helping our communities prosper. They are proving every day that economic growth and civic progress go hand in hand.

Because economic growth does not happen by accident, it requires strong partnerships between the public and private sectors, with each playing a distinct but complementary role. Businesses drive investment, innovation, and job creation, while government helps create the conditions for success through smart, predictable policies, strategic infrastructure investments, ensuring access to public education, and efficient regulatory frameworks.

At the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, our mission is rooted in that belief. We work to advance a dynamic regional economy where businesses can grow, workers can succeed, and communities can thrive, because a strong business climate benefits everyone.

America's 250th birthday is an opportunity to celebrate what we've built together and to recommit ourselves to the work ahead. The story of American enterprise is ultimately a story of innovation, resilience, optimism, and a willingness to work together in pursuit of progress. It is a story made possible by the freedoms and democratic values that have defined our nation for 250 years, creating the stability, opportunity, and confidence that allow people and businesses to invest, innovate, and succeed. On this 250th anniversary of our nation's birth, that is definitely a story worth celebrating!

Happy Birthday America!!

Jack Lavin
President & CEO
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce