



Ashli Watts
President & CEO

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Dear Legislator,

With just six days left in the 2021 legislative session, we know you will be prioritizing issues to ensure a true path to economic recovery.

On behalf of Kentucky businesses, we want to stress this cannot be achieved without action on three key issues that still hang in the balance:

Infrastructure Investment: Pass the revenue increasing measure in HB 561 including the .10 gas tax increase. If we do nothing, the amount of money needed for roads and bridges will keep increasing, traffic will get worse, and our roads will continue to decline in safety. Investing in our infrastructure is an investment in our economy. Simply moving and changing some fees around for one-time money is not a viable or bold solution.

COVID-19 Liability Reform: Pass SB 5 to provide tailored, meaningful protections for businesses, organizations, churches, and schools. Kentucky businesses have worked diligently to protect Kentuckians and balance a new normal with many restrictions. They stepped up to protect all Kentuckians and we must now protect them from losing everything due to costly legal battles while they try to follow ever-changing guidelines.

Unemployment Insurance Relief: Provide employers relief from higher taxes and funding to pay down the federal loan that if not repaid will create federal tax penalties. Many Kentucky businesses will not survive this pandemic due to decreased patronage, demand, lost revenue, and a host of other issues. They should not have to face another massive financial hit because of the depleted UI Trust Fund. This is critical to help save small businesses.

Without tackling these issues, the legislature will have neglected to truly help get our economy back on track and ensure employers can recover from the pandemic.

As we start to emerge from the pandemic, Kentucky must be able to protect and create jobs, generate economic growth, and ensure future prosperity. Please don't adjourn the legislative session for the year leaving us to just get by when what we need is bold leadership and growth.

Sincerely,

Ashli Watts
President and CEO