



# Commerce Connection

*Business Is Good*

## In This Issue

**Workforce & Talent Summit; Registration Opening Soon**  
**Senate Passes Minimum Wage Hike**  
**Nominate Your Favorites for Top 10 Winter Events 2019-2020**  
**Attract More Visitors to Your Business**  
**HIRE Vets Medallion Program**  
**Vermont Chamber Teams with Vermont Panurgy to Bridge the Skills Gap**  
**ServSafe® Certification Class + Exam**  
**Welcome New Chamber Members**  
**Member Spotlight**

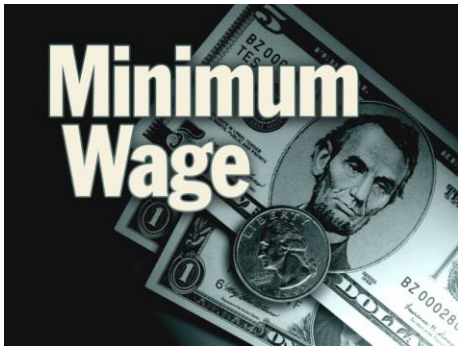
March 2019

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### **Workforce & Talent Summit; Registration Opening Soon**

The Vermont [Workforce & Talent Summit](#) is part of a Six Pillar Conference Series focused on promoting the long-term economic health of our state and providing opportunity for Vermonters. This event will provide tools to support talent recruitment and retention strategies which are essential to business growth and require partnerships between employers, educators, training providers and government. The people, skills and training that power the economy today and the challenge of ensuring a new workforce generation will be at the heart of this event. The event will be held Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the Hilton in Burlington. Partners for this event include the Vermont State Workforce Development Board, the Vermont Department of Labor, Advance Vermont, and the [Vermont Futures Project](#).





## Senate Passes Minimum Wage Hike

After rapidly advancing the bill last week, the Senate passed [S.23](#), which seeks to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024. The current version of S.23 accelerates the timeline to get to a \$15 an hour minimum wage to five years, rather than the six previously considered. This rapid increase has the potential to impact far-reaching negative

impacts on small businesses.

The Vermont Chamber testified in opposition to the bill while also offering [suggestions](#) to ease the burden on employers. Recommendations by the Vermont Chamber included calling for a six-year implementation period and a separation of the tipped wage from the minimum wage. As the bill is considered in the House, the Vermont Chamber will continue to oppose increases to the minimum wage beyond those already in statute, while also advocating for changes that would lessen the impact of the mandated increases, if the bill were to pass.

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## Nominate Your Favorites for Top 10 Winter Events 2019-2020

The Vermont Chamber features the state's best activities for each season. It's now time to nominate your favorite winter activities as Vermont Top 10 Events. The Top 10 Events are published in the Vermont Chamber's [Winter Vacation Guide](#), the official tourism piece for the state of Vermont. Often the list is leveraged to answer media inquiries and by Vermont Chamber partners to identify the hottest events around the state. Click [here](#) for the application and more details. Any questions contact [Karen Foote](#).



**Attract more visitors to your business  
with our Vermont Tourism Marketing Program**

- 3.3 million visitors to Vermont Welcome Centers
- 700,000 eGuide pageviews and 70% are unique users!
- 300,000 vacation guides distributed through various channels
- 1.7 million visitors to VermontVacation.com
- 125,000 subscribers reached via monthly VDTM email campaign

**VERMONT CHAMBER**  
of Commerce

Contact Marc Plouffe at [mplouffe@vtchamber.com](mailto:mplouffe@vtchamber.com)  
or Megan Bullard at [mbullard@vtchamber.com](mailto:mbullard@vtchamber.com)

### HIRE Vets Medallion Program

The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) recently announced the HIRE Vets Medallion Program to recognize organizations that have invested in employing and retaining veterans. Get involved today by checking out [HIREVETS.gov](http://HIREVETS.gov).



### Vermont Chamber Teams with Vermont Panurgy to Bridge the Skills Gap

into mid and upper level positions, [Vermont Panurgy](http://VermontPanurgy), a leader in IT and training services, is teaming with the Vermont Chamber to provide members with a 20% savings on courses for: PC Applications, Graphic Design, Web Technologies, and Talent and Leadership Development. Contact Vermont Panurgy.

To help address Vermont's workforce skills gap and advance entry-level employees

## ServSafe® Certification Class + Exam

ServSafe® is a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the National Restaurant Association.



Who should attend: Managers, Cooks, Chefs, Waitstaff, Bartenders, Supervisors, Owners, Culinary Teachers, Dietary Aides, Caterers and anyone who prepares, handles, or serves food to the public. [Registration information](#) is available for March and April classes.

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### Welcome New Chamber Members

[Global Partners LP](#)  
[The Maple Guild](#)  
[simpleroute](#)  
[Supersounds Entertainment](#)  
[Eastern Industrial Automation, Inc.](#)  
[Consolidated Industries, Inc.](#)  
[Stowe Capital, LLC](#)  
[Account Mobility](#)  
[Well Told Films LLC](#)  
[The Finishing Company - Kaiser Homes VT](#)  
[ABC 4 LLC](#)

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### Member Spotlight

#### [Account Mobility](#)

Account Mobility has more than 14 years' training with QuickBooks products. They are focused on providing their clients advice on best practices for conversion to cloud accounting and consulting services which support their accounting platform choice. [Contact](#) them today for your next accounting service.

2019 Vermont Chamber member.

To learn more about how you can be our featured member of the month, contact [Beverly Gittelson](#). It's just one of the numerous benefits of being a member of the [Vermont Chamber of Commerce](#).

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## #LetsGrowVT

[Making it Vermont: Small Company Lands Large Helicopter Tech Contract](#)

[GE Aviation Rutland Plant to Stay Busy Thanks to New Military Contract](#)

[GW Plastics Expands Again in Ireland](#)

[REV and GMP Launch Energy Storage Program](#)

This section features news about growing Vermont companies. Add [news@vtchamber.com](mailto:news@vtchamber.com) to your distribution list.

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## In Other News:

[GlobalFoundries Moves Tools From Vermont to Germany](#)

[Encore Renewable Gets \\$1 Million to Expand Solar Projects in New England](#)

[City Market Sells Parcel to Petra Cliffs](#)

[Casella Reports Growth for Q4 and FY 2018](#)

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## Save the Date:

[Vermont Tourism Summit - April 4-5 2019](#)

[Small Business Course at Vermont Tech - April 2019](#)

[Veteran Small Business Workshop - March 7, 2019](#)

[Applications Now Open for Comcast NBCUniversal Lift Labs Accelerator - Apply Now](#)

[Manufacturing Summit - September 26, 2019](#)

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