

Thanks to the outstanding engagement and support of the Roundtable's members, MBR has made significant progress on its member-driven policy priorities at the halfway mark in 2014. The Roundtable continues to strengthen the value proposition for its members offering diverse opportunities to work with policy makers and fellow business leaders in key industry sectors across Massachusetts. Convening business leaders and collaborating on policy development are key elements of our value proposition and hallmarks of how the Roundtable works with its members and public leaders to strengthen the state's long-term economy.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to new Roundtable member **Vertex Pharmaceuticals** for hosting the 2014 MBR Annual Meeting. Thanks also to MBR's Chair Donna Cupelo, Vice Chair Michael Hogan, as well as the MBR Officers, Executive Committee members, Task Force Chairs and members of the Board. The policy impact of the Roundtable is made possible only through the strong support and engagement of our business leaders, whose companies employ 250,000 people in industries across the state.

Convening Business Leaders

- **Developed Competitiveness Principles**—The Roundtable's Competitiveness Task Force Chaired by Barry Nearhos developed and widely disseminated a set of member-driven competitiveness principles that are driving MBR's public policy advocacy.
- **Established Health Care Principles**—Working with its members, the Roundtable's Health Care Task Force Chaired by James Clemmer created and shared a series of health care cost containment principles to continue our advocacy for improving quality while lowering costs.



Berkshire Business Roundtable
with Governor Patrick

- **Expanding Growth & Opportunity**—Partnered with the Berkshire Business Roundtable for a conversation with Governor Deval Patrick in Pittsfield in March with more than 40 members of both organizations.
- **"Policy Makers" Conversations**—Members met with House Speaker Robert DeLeo in February and Senate President Therese Murray in April on the Roundtable's policy priorities.
- **March 2014 Board Meeting**—Featured a conversation with former Roundtable member and candidate for Governor Charlie Baker.
- **CEO Breakfast Series**—Worked with Northeastern University on CEO Breakfast Series, which featured MBR member Karen Kaplan, CEO of Hill Holliday in May.

Collaborating on Policy

- **UI Rate Freeze:** Joined with major business groups successfully urging the state to freeze unemployment insurance rates and advocated for UI reforms with the Legislative and Executive branches; this included a coordinated social media strategy to raise awareness of the issue.
- **Codifying & Funding STEM:** Worked with House & Senate leadership, Patrick Administration to codify the state's STEM Advisory Council and fund the STEM Pipeline Fund through the state budget.
- **Cost of Energy:** Teamed up with the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Mass. Taxpayers Foundation and Mass. Competitive Partnership calling on the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to support a legislative approach that strengthens the state's commitment to clean energy and energy efficiency, while not exacerbating high energy costs, a major competitive disadvantage.
- **Tax Policy:** Worked with DOR to improve the dispute resolution process and expand early mediation, which was identified as a top priority by MBR members; tax collections show significant increases in one-time settlements from businesses, a win-win for the business community and the state.
- **Support Non-Competes Law:** Members expressed strong support for maintaining the current law allowing non-compete agreements.
- **Education Policy:** Worked with MBAE and MassINC Polling Group on a detailed survey of business leaders to gauge attitudes on the need for continued reforms in the state's education system and develop the framework for a shared education policy agenda; the poll was widely distributed and covered by statewide media outlets.
- **Computer Science Education:** Partnered with MACP and MassTLC calling on the state to support expanded access to computer science education in schools throughout Massachusetts.
- **IT Bond Bill:** Collaborated with the Society for Information Management and the MassTLC to urge support for investments in information technology in schools across the state.
- **Big Data:** Worked with MBR member MassTech Collaborative and tech members to successfully launch the Mass. Big Data Initiative.
- **Brownfields Redevelopment Fund:** Advocated for recapitalizing the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund—managed by MBR member MassDevelopment
- **Workforce Development:** Advocated with Legislators as part of the Workforce Solutions Group for recapitalization of the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund, and met with state leaders on the need for greater alignment of workforce development programs with employer needs.



New Members



Patrick J. Sullivan



New Voices from long-time MBR members



HILL HOLLIDAY
Karen Kaplan



Michael Lee



Peter Sherlock



Margaret Cohen