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BIA plans June business roundtables

CONCORD, N.H. – May 18, 2010 – Next month, the Business and Industry Association will begin its annual policy development process, featuring 11 roundtable discussions with business and opinion leaders around the state. The roundtables are an open forum for business leaders to talk about their top challenges and concerns and help shape the BIA's legislative and regulatory agenda for the upcoming year.

"The BIA engages in a comprehensive, four-step policy development process annually to establish our proactive legislative and regulatory agenda for the coming year," said BIA President Jim Roche. "These roundtables are the first step in that process. We talk with business leaders and chamber and trade association executives about top business issues facing New Hampshire and ask for their recommendations about what the BIA should do to address these issues at the state level."

BIA partners with local and regional chambers of commerce and business associations throughout New Hampshire to host and publicize the events in different regions to ensure a diverse representation of business interests. Each session lasts about an hour and a half. They begin with an overview of the BIA's current business agenda and results from the legislative session, followed by a discussion and ranking of top business issues for the coming year.

More than 300 business and opinion leaders participate in the roundtables each summer, which are free and open to the public. This year, business roundtable discussions will be held in the following locations:

- **Keene:** June 10, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Ocean Bank, 122 West Street, Keene
- **Concord:** June 15, 2 – 3:30 p.m., BIA office, 122 North Main Street, Concord
- **Salem:** June 16, 8 – 9:30 a.m., Rockingham Park, 79 Rockingham Park Boulevard, Salem
- **Manchester:** June 17, 2:30 – 4 p.m., Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, 54 Hanover Street, Manchester
- **Dover:** June 22, 9 – 10:30 a.m., Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce, 550 Central Avenue, Dover
- **Exeter:** June 22, 2:30 – 4 p.m., Exeter Healthcare, 5 Alumni Drive, Exeter
- **Nashua:** June 23, 9 – 10:30 a.m., Law Warehouses, 27 Airport Road, Nashua
- **Laconia:** June 23, 2:30 – 4 p.m., Meredith Village Savings Bank, 379 South Main Street, Laconia
- **Littleton:** June 24, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Littleton Community Center, 120 Main Street, Littleton
- **Berlin:** June 24, 2 – 3:30 p.m., Isaacson Structural Steel, Jericho Road, Berlin
- **Hanover:** June 25, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Hypertherm, Etna Road, Hanover

The roundtables are presented in partnership with *New Hampshire Business Review* and the following chambers of commerce and business associations: Androscoggin Valley, Exeter Area, Greater Concord, Greater Dover, Greater Hudson, Greater Keene, Greater Lebanon, Greater Manchester, Greater Portsmouth, Greater Salem, Greater Somersworth, Hampton Area, Hanover Area, Lakes Region, Littleton Area and Souhegan Valley chambers of commerce, and the Lakes Region Association.

Roundtable dates, times and locations are also available at nhbia.org under Events. Visit the Web site for more information or to sign up for a free session, or call 603-224-5388 x100.

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About the BIA: The Business and Industry Association is New Hampshire's statewide chamber of commerce

and leading business advocate. The BIA represents more than 400 members in a variety of industries, including advanced manufacturing, high technology, professional services, financial services, health care, hospitality and tourism, public utilities, higher education and insurance. Member firms employ 80,000 people throughout the state and contribute \$4.5 billion annually to the state's economy. Through advocacy with state legislators and regulators, the BIA works to promote a healthy business climate and robust economic future for New Hampshire.

The BIA's 2010 public policy priorities include: preserving the New Hampshire Advantage through support of fiscally conservative state budgets with a business-friendly tax structure; supporting business tax incentives that foster economic growth; supporting efforts to reduce total healthcare costs for businesses and the state; monitoring the availability and affordability of housing for working people; supporting efforts to develop New Hampshire's future workforce; supporting infrastructure development; working towards mitigating the rising cost of energy; and supporting environmental policies, legislation and administrative rules that balance economic development with the long-term viability of the state's natural resources. For more information about the BIA, visit <http://www.nhbia.org>.