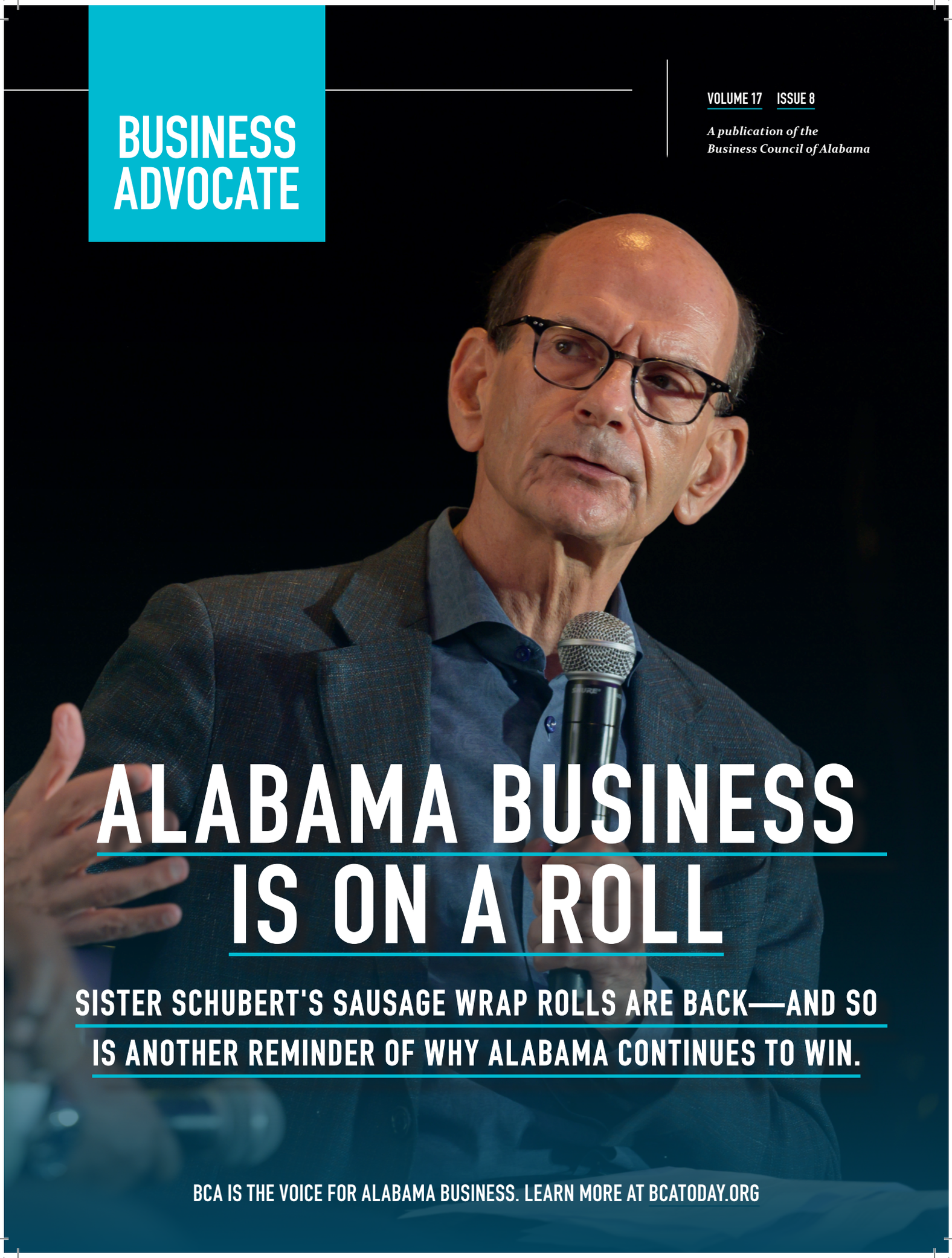
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ALABAMA BUSINESS IS ON A ROLL

SISTER SCHUBERT'S SAUSAGE WRAP ROLLS ARE BACK—AND SO IS ANOTHER REMINDER OF WHY ALABAMA CONTINUES TO WIN.

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SENATOR TUBERVILLE SPEAKING TO ATTENDEES



JIMMY RANE & HELENA DUNCAN PRESENT AWARD TO GOVERNOR IVEY

ALABAMA BUSINESS IS ON A ROLL: SISTER SCHUBERT'S SAUSAGE WRAP ROLLS ARE BACK—AND SO IS ANOTHER REMINDER OF WHY ALABAMA CONTINUES TO WIN.

The loudest applause at this year's Business Council of Alabama Government Affairs Conference wasn't for a new piece of legislation or a billion-dollar economic development announcement.

It was for Sister Schubert's sausage rolls.

During the Alabama Business Recruiting Playbook panel, moderated by Paul Finebaum, Marzetti Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Government Relations Clarence Mingo was asked a question submitted by "Kay I. from Camden."

"Look, we all love AND MISS Sister Schubert's sausage wrap rolls. How quickly can we get those back on the shelves?"

The answer drew cheers from the more than 850 business leaders, elected officials, and policymakers gathered in Point Clear.

They're coming back.

While the announcement provided one of the weekend's lighter moments, it perfectly captured what the Business Council of Alabama's Government Affairs Conference is all about.

Sister Schubert's began in a Troy church kitchen before growing into a nationally recognized brand with its flagship bakery still operating in Luverne. Its story is an Alabama success story—one built by entrepreneurship, investment, manufacturing, and a business climate where companies can grow.

That same story was echoed throughout this year's conference.

From August 7-9, the Grand Hotel in Point Clear once again became the center of Alabama's business and political communities as BCA hosted its annual Government Affairs Conference.

For more than four decades, BCA has served as the voice of Alabama business, advocating for pro-growth policies, bringing together business and government leaders, and ensuring Alabama remains one of the nation's most competitive places to invest and create jobs. The Government Affairs Conference has become the organization's signature event, providing a forum where relationships are built, ideas are exchanged, and the policies shaping Alabama's future take center stage.

This year's conference featured Gov. Kay Ivey, U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville, all seven members of Alabama's congressional delegation, business executives from some of the world's leading businesses, and hundreds of leaders representing every corner of Alabama's economy.

WINNING THE COMPETITION



FEDERAL PANEL MODERATED BY JO BONNER

If there was one message repeated throughout the conference, it was that Alabama is competing—and winning.

That point came into focus during a panel featuring executives from Mercedes-Benz, Airbus, Marzetti, and Eli Lilly.

When Eli Lilly announced plans to invest $60 billion in pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities across the United States, nearly every governor in the country expressed interest. More than 300 proposals were submitted.

Only four states were selected.

Alabama was one of them.

Dan Wahby, Eli Lilly's director of state government affairs, said Alabama stood apart because of something that cannot be replicated through incentives alone.

Collaboration.

State government, local leaders, economic developers, workforce partners, educators, and the private sector all worked together to demonstrate why Alabama was the right place for one of the largest pharmaceutical manufacturing investments in the country.

"That's why we came here," Wahby told attendees. ***"The people in this room were instrumental in Eli Lilly and Company making the decision to come to Huntsville."***

That partnership was a recurring theme throughout the discussion.

Airbus Senior Vice President Daryl Taylor said Alabama was the only state where government and business leaders appeared completely aligned when presenting their case.

Mercedes-Benz President and CEO Federico Kochlowski pointed to Alabama's workforce and educational partnerships.

Clarence Mingo described Alabama as a place where companies can establish roots and continue growing because relationships matter.

Together, their stories illustrated what BCA has long championed: economic development succeeds when business and government work together.

PREPARING ALABAMA FOR WHAT'S NEXT

The conversation quickly turned from winning projects to sustaining them.

Business leaders agreed Alabama's future competitiveness depends on continuing to invest in workforce development, career and technical education, STEM instruction, healthcare access, childcare, and Alabama's community college system.

Artificial intelligence also emerged as a recurring topic.

Executives discussed preparing tomorrow's workforce for an economy increasingly shaped by advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies.

For Alabama to continue attracting companies like Mercedes-Benz, Airbus, and Eli Lilly, panelists agreed

the state must continue investing in the people who will power those industries for decades to come.

FEDERAL POLICY THROUGH A BUSINESS LENS

Business leaders heard directly from Alabama's congressional delegation during a federal panel moderated by former Congressman and University of South Alabama President Jo Bonner. Representatives Robert Aderholt, Shomari Figures, Barry Moore, Gary Palmer, Mike Rogers, Terri Sewell and Dale Strong discussed the federal policies they hope to advance before the end of the 119th Congress and what those priorities could mean for Alabama's economy.

The conversation spanned many of the issues shaping Alabama's business climate, including defense spending, permitting reform, transportation infrastructure, immigration, election security, healthcare, rural broadband and energy policy. The delegation discussed the importance of maintaining America's manufacturing strength, investing in critical infrastructure like the Port of Mobile, strengthening national security and ensuring Alabama remains competitive for future economic growth.

GROWING ALABAMA'S ECONOMY

U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville continued that discussion during a one-on-one conversation with Bonner, outlining his vision for Alabama's economic future as the Republican nominee for governor.



ALABAMA'S BUSINESS RECRUITING PLAYBOOK PANEL WITH PAUL FINEBAUM

Tuberville discussed the connection among economic growth, tax relief, workforce participation, artificial intelligence, and data center development, arguing that Alabama must continue to attract new investment while preparing workers for the jobs of tomorrow. He emphasized growing the state's economy as the path to reducing the tax burden on Alabamians, highlighted the need to eliminate government waste and improve efficiency, and pointed to artificial intelligence as a tool to strengthen government services and support future economic growth.

ALABAMA HAS A STORY TO TELL

This year's conference demonstrated what Alabama does best: bringing together business leaders, lawmakers, policy experts, and economic developers to move the state forward.

The result is a business climate that continues to attract investment, create jobs, strengthen communities, and build on Alabama's economic momentum.

And yes, sometimes that success is measured in billion-dollar investments—and sometimes it's measured in the return of Sister Schubert's sausage rolls.

Either way, Alabama business is on a roll.

The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, a non-partisan, statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of nearly 1 million working Alabamians through its member companies and its partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama. For more information on the Business Council of Alabama, please contact us at (334) 834-6000 or visit us online at bcatoday.org.

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