



2013 Legislative Agenda Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce

GOOD GOVERNMENT: Finance//Fiscal Responsibility

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce has long-supported a review of the tax system in Oregon in conjunction with ongoing exploration and action on reducing government waste and increasing efficiencies. The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce **supports:**

- **Budget:** A fundamental discussion on the long term (10 year) budget must include taxation reform. Establish a consensus on where Oregon should rate in comparison to the other states in terms of total tax rate.
- **Single Sales Factor:** The passage of LC1, the Economic Impact Investment Act in December, 2012's special session. It is a significant and positive step in providing large global companies stability with corporate taxes. Finding ways to provide the same stability and predictability for small and medium-sized Oregon businesses should be a priority.
- **PERS reform:** It must be a priority to reduce unfunded liabilities and maintain cost control for local government entities. All governmental agency budgets in Oregon will continue to be impacted at an accelerating and unsustainable rate.
- **Oregon Investment Act:** Provide clarity, authorization and funds for the Act passed in 2012.
- **Gain Share Program:** Provide clarity and certainty to the Gain Share program so Counties, Cities and Special Districts receive their fair-share of incentives generated as a result of tax incentive programs such as SIP and Enterprise Zones.
- **Essential services:** Avoid any new legislation creating programs that create a net cost to the budget until Oregon's economy is fully recovered. This discussion must include defining essential government services and developing a framework for determining what programs get added and what programs are allowed to sunset.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Education//Energy//Transportation

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce supports stable, adequate and long-term funding solutions for both the k-12 and higher education system in Oregon.

//Education:

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce **supports:**

- **Priority funding:** The education system as the Number One funding priority in the state budget;
- **Stability:** Create long-term stable funding for the system – K-20;
- **Create efficiencies:** Increase in higher education funding including community colleges. An examination of higher education consolidation is an opportunity to reduce costs and increase efficiencies;
- **Vocational training:** Encourage and support Community Colleges to develop and improve Apprenticeship and Training programs.

- STEM: Fund and support Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics programs.

//Energy:

Legislation must be sustainable economically and socially, as well as environmentally, and maintain balance between the three key elements: environmental, economic and social.

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce **supports**:

- Providing essential information and education to prepare business for future changes to how energy is provided and the costs associated with.
- Credits: Continue residential energy tax credits.

//Transportation/Freight Mobility

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce supports a local and regional transportation system that promotes job growth and enhances livability for its residents. A viable transportation system is necessary for local businesses to maximize their potential and for Beaverton to attract future business growth. Both freight and commuting needs must be supported.

Beaverton, with the convergence of Highways 217 and 26, the close proximity of Interstate 5, the convergence of bus and rail options at the Beaverton Transit Center as a part of the development of the Beaverton Regional Center, and the potential expansion of the Hillsboro Airport make Beaverton an important transportation center. There must be timely access to Beaverton's Regional Center, other business centers and residential areas in order for Beaverton to prosper.

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce **supports**:

- Continue investments: Increase transportation access to the Beaverton Regional Center to aid in creating an impression of a place and enhancing the prestige and significance of "Beaverton" as a destination and location. ODOT should continue investment in transportation alternatives such as bike/trails/pedestrian pathways which enhance walk-able downtown cores;
- Options: Transportation options and maintenance that improve commercial access and flow through our area;
- Update rules: Revise the Transportation Planning Rule which limits improvements based on the formula set in the 1970s. Transportation funding needs to be re-evaluated as gas/fuel consumption decreases.
- Lobby for funding: Transportation needs must be funded in a timely manner based on an economic return formula ensuring the greatest return on investment for the region and state;
- Ensure funding: Highway 217 expansion and Interstate 5 Bridge for the Columbia River Crossing.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Workforce Development

We recognize the importance of business and education partnerships that promote and connect high academic achievement to a successful future workforce. The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce **supports**:

- Employer needs: Programs that fill the higher-education pipeline with diverse and representative candidates from the community. We are a knowledge economy and must provide graduates that fit our workforce/employer needs.