



## 2019 State Legislative Agenda Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce

The Beaverton Chamber of Commerce is the largest Chamber in the state of Oregon, with more than 6,617 partners and members. As such, the BACC's Business Advocacy Council has an important voice in strongly encouraging a business-supportive agenda, one in which the business/labor/management voice is expressly heeded. The BACC supports all business in furthering inclusion, diversity and equal-opportunity culture.

### **GOOD GOVERNMENT: Finance//Fiscal Responsibility**

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce has long supported community improvement, updating the state tax system, strategic cost containment strategies, promulgating good governance and increasing efficiencies. The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce maintains strong concern about overarching and intrusive business regulatory and compliance mandates.

The Chamber supports:

- **Canyon Road, Highway 217, and Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway improvements:** Support city efforts and ODOT funds to ensure continued traffic management and movability in the region. Oppose tolling on Highway 217.
- **Revenue Package and Cost Containment:** Support reforms to the Public Employee Retirement System to decrease the growing and unfunded liability to mitigate its impact on the state budget, such as implementing the Defined Contribution model and reconsideration of Tier 4, to require employee contributions.
- **Essential services:** Seek reduction of waste in duplication and proliferation of Oregon's governmental bureaucracy such as commissions.

The Chamber opposes:

- **Burdensome business mandates:** The Chamber is concerned with legislative proposals seeking to further increase mandates on business. We support the opportunity to shape and define workplace policies and rules that will ensure businesses can continue to provide critical jobs for the communities they serve. Currently our businesses are finding ways to adjust to paid sick leave mandates and increased minimum wages.
- Any changes to the Gain Share program that was negotiated to remain in place until 2023.

### **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: Ensure the education system continues as the #1 funding priority in the budget.

Stability: Create long-term stable funding for the system – K-20.

Create efficiencies: Increase in higher education funding. Increase Community College budget by \$70 million dollars for Career and Technical Education (CTE) across the state. Encourage efficiencies by encouraging Measure 98 recipients (K-12) to coordinate with their local community colleges to avoid duplication and replication of CTE in our system.

STEM and vocational training: Encourage and support applied STEM education and training programs, and encourage community colleges to develop and improve vocational, apprenticeship and training programs.

### **//Energy:**

Pursue a national posture on carbon limits: Ensure competitive fairness by maintaining the position that carbon limits make the most impact at the Federal level, not by jurisdiction. Oregon is on the path to transition away from coal to cleaner and renewable resources. Any carbon reduction legislation at the state level must be designed appropriately to give customers credit for those investments already going into non-carbon resources. Making customers pay later for further credits would mean they are being double charged and that would increase costs to consumers and businesses. Affordability for consumers must be a focus of any legislation.

### **//Transportation/Freight Mobility**

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

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 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:

Options: Transportation options that improve commercial access and flow through our area, such as improvements to Canyon Road and Highway 217.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: County and City Growth and Development**

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

Solutions for Affordable Housing: Reduce regulations and ensure business-friendly code requirements for developers who build affordable housing, especially apartments and multi-

family units. Additionally, support the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary to bring in more land, thereby increasing land inventory, and stabilizing costs to achieve more affordability for renters.

Oppose residential rent control: Oppose measures that create rent-control policies and that burden landlords with interference into the landlord-tenant relationship.