



## 2017 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 5,000 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, reducing government waste, 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**:

- ❑ **Budget**: Seek a fundamental discussion on the long term (10-year) budget that must include taxation reform, investments in key industry sectors and stimulation of capital investments. Address Oregon's high comparable income tax rate and reduce capital gains tax, as well as the
- ❑ **Revenue Package**: Support reform to address state revenue balance due to PERS expenditures.
- ❑ **Oregon Investment Act**: Support increased funding allocation to at least \$8 million.
- ❑ **Essential services**: Seek reduction of waste in duplication and proliferation of Oregon's governmental bureaucracy such as commissions.

The Chamber **opposes**:

- ❑ **Burdensome business mandates**: Oppose the proliferation of bureaucratic structures that requirements on hiring, investments, productivity, etc. that create more fees and regulations, and creates more administrative burden to businesses.

### **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 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.
- ❑ **STEAM and vocational training**: Encourage and support applied STEAM education and training programs, and encourage community colleges to develop and improve vocational, apprenticeship and training programs.

## **//Energy:**

- ❑ **Enforce a national posture on carbon limits:** Ensure competitive fairness by maintaining the position that carbon limits need to come from the Federal perspective, not by jurisdiction. Monitor efforts that, while seeking to increase renewable energy modalities, create higher costs for businesses. Work to keep any future carbon limit laws from becoming burdensome and too costly to administer.
- ❑ **Support exploration of business-friendly clean and renewable energy alternatives:** Advocate for policy and implementation of a clean energy plan, without unfairly requiring business to shoulder cost burdens for exploration, development and implementation.

## **//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 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:**

- ❑ **Continued investments:** Increase transportation access and fee structures 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. Also, ensure cost-effective solutions are in place for the development of trails and pathways.
- ❑ **Options:** Transportation options that improve commercial access and flow through our area.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **A broadly-configured, publicly-funded transportation package** the both builds new and maintains current infrastructure, and addresses aging roads, bridges and impediments to efficiently moving goods throughout our region.

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

We recognize the importance 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:**

- ❑ **Urban Renewal District:** Support programs and projects that supports smart population growth, company recruitment and that creates more visibility for local economic development efforts. Continue implementation of business walks and local employer surveying.
- ❑ **Urban boundaries:** Support urban growth boundary law reform, if opportunity arises.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Inclusionary zoning:** Support mechanisms of land use practice that requires affordable housing units to be built along with market rate housing.

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