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## **GOOD GOVERNMENT, IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ARE KEY PRIORITIES IN BEAVERTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2013 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

(Beaverton, Ore.) – The Business Advocacy Council and the Board of Directors of the [Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce](#) have put forth an ambitious watch-and-work platform ahead of the 2013 Oregon legislative session, which begins Monday, Feb. 4, 2013.

“We have an intensive list of priorities for Oregon and for Beaverton ahead of us,” said Ken Madden, of Beaverton’s Madden Industrial Craftsmen, Inc. and the 2013 Beaverton Chamber board chair. “We’ve narrowed them down but recognize that it’s going to take a true partnership, in working with Beaverton-area legislators, to focus on the three key areas.”

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce’s [legislative platform](#) comprises three key focal points, with important action items:

**1. Good government and fiscal responsibility: The Chamber seeks to:**

- Enjoin the fundamental discussion needed for tax reform;
- Continue support of the “Single Sales Factor;”
- Reduce unfunded liabilities through PERS reform;
- Provide clarity on funding strategies including the Oregon Investment Act, Gain Share program, special district incentives and enterprise zone funding; and
- Avoid creating new programs that create a net cost to Oregon’s economy, until it is fully recovered.

**2. Stable, adequate funding for education, energy and transportation: The Chamber seeks to:**

- Make education funding the number one priority for Oregon’s budget, while increasing funding for community colleges and vocational programs, and supporting more STEAM education (science, technology, engineering, arts and math);
- Continue residential energy tax credits; and
- Continue investments in transportation that increase freight mobility, support ODOT’s ongoing investment to transportation alternatives, improve commercial access and flow throughout the city, update the Transportation Planning Rule and ensure funding for Highway 2017’s expansion.

**3. Promote partnerships that achieve a strong and qualified future workforce: The Chamber seeks to:**

- Support programs that create economic development opportunities, and feed higher education and vocational program pipelines to foster a more diverse and qualified workforce in meeting local employers’ dynamic needs.

“The Chamber hears from its members frequently that education, tax reform, transportation and economic development initiatives are crucial to the city’s and the state’s economic progression,” said Lorraine Clarno, president and CEO of the Chamber.

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### **About the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce**

*The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce and its 650+ members, promote a vibrant community and business environment by leading business development and retention, advocating sound public policy and providing strategic direction to city and county leaders.*

*The purpose of the Candidate Endorsement Council is to ensure pro-business candidates are elected to local offices that impact the health and sustainability of the Beaverton business community. The Candidate Endorsement Council, independent of any political party, candidates or organizations, promotes a vibrant business environment by endorsing candidates who support sound public policy that strengthens the business community and the free enterprise system.*