



2015 Legislative Agenda Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce

GOOD GOVERNMENT: Finance//Fiscal Responsibility

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce has long supported community improvement, updating and the state tax system, reducing government waste, promulgating good governance and increasing efficiencies. The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce **supports:**

- ❑ **Budget:** Seek a fundamental discussion on the long term (10 year) budget 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.
- ❑ **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.

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.
- ❑ **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:

- ❑ **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. Work to keep any future carbon limit laws from becoming burdensome and too costly to administer.

//Transportation/Freight Mobility

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce supports a local and regional transportation system addresses geographic inadequacies, updates and repairs; 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 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.
- ❑ 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 moveability in the 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.
- ❑ Ensure viability of Strategic Investment Program and GainShare: Support SIP and GainShare program dividends are available in rural areas of Washington County for use in funding local K-12 education efforts.
- ❑ Support development of Enterprise zones: Consider SIP-like provisions for small businesses that equipment investments similar to Intel.