



## Public Policy Guidelines

### Business Advocacy Guiding Principals

- Government should first “do no harm” to the Beaverton and regional economies.
- City and County government should focus on priorities that will foster a favorable business environment and grow Beaverton area commerce, industry and jobs.
- Governments at all levels should be continuously streamlining their processes and minimizing regulation where ever possible.
- When government agencies and special districts contract for work, they should hire and purchase locally when possible and practical.
- When government agencies regulate or take action, the impact on the business environment and its competitiveness, as well as the unintended consequences, should be considered.

### Education

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. Today’s students are tomorrow’s entrepreneurs, innovators, workers and leaders. 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 -

- ❑ Long-term adequate funding
- ❑ Programs that fill the higher education pipeline with diverse and representative individuals from the community
- ❑ Career, technology, and trades education in conjunction with high schools and community colleges.
- ❑ School-Business partnerships/ School-to-Career
- ❑ Public - Charter school legislation
- ❑ Good stewardship of tax payer dollars.
- ❑ Save and secure environments for all students and teachers.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

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

Beaverton, with the convergence of Highways 217 and 26, the close proximity of I-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:

- ❑ Beaverton Regional Center: Transportation access to the Center is important to aid in creating an impression of a place, which enhances the prestige and significance of "Beaverton "as a destination and location.
- ❑ Movement around the City: Arterial road capacities need to be increased to support both commercial and private use.
- ❑ Westside Access: Transportation options should enhance commercial access and flow through our area.
- ❑ Funding: Transportation needs must be funded in a timely manner based on an economic return formula ensuring the greatest return on investment.
- ❑ Efforts through partnerships with Washington County and ODOT to increase the capacity of Hwy 8, Hwy 10, Hwy 26 and Hwy 217.
- ❑ The need for a new Columbia River Crossing bridge.
- ❑ Multi-modal transportation including public transit, bicycles, safe pedestrian means.

### **Infrastructure –**

- Opportunities to facilitate ongoing efforts to improve the maintenance, modernization and market competitiveness of commercial waterways, including the Port of Portland.
- Opportunities to improve and modernize railroads to further facilitate and expand trade and travel in the region.

## **Business Regulation**

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes the need for reasonable and necessary government regulations and opposes unnecessary, excessive and costly regulation of business activities. As it relates to regulation, the primary goal of any such legislation should be weighed against the goals of economic development and growth for Oregon.

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce Supports -

- ❑ Necessary regulation of business that encourages a competitive business environment.
- ❑ Reasonable regulation of business that encourages a competitive business environment.
- ❑ Efficient regulation of business that encourages a competitive business environment.
- ❑ Limited regulation of business that encourages a competitive business environment.
- ❑ Repeal of laws or regulations that are unnecessary, inefficient, and costly
- ❑ Identifying areas where multiple departments within a single government or regulation by multiple levels of government exist and transferring regulatory responsibility or eliminating regulatory responsibility to a single department or level of government to provide necessary regulation, but avoid unnecessary complexity.

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce Opposes –

- ❑ Unnecessary regulation of business
- ❑ Excessive regulation of business
- ❑ Costly regulation of business
- ❑ Multiplicity in regulation of business

### **Fiscal Responsibility & Stability**

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce believes that a healthy business environment throughout the state is essential to attract and retain businesses, provide stable employment to citizens and provide a strong financial base for the state. Given the prolonged recession, recent tax increases on corporations and wealthy Oregonians, and the instability of Oregon's reliance on income tax, the national perception has harmed our ability to maintain and attract businesses to Oregon. The following priorities will improve our business climate

- ❑ Tax Reform: balanced, equitable and new sources
- ❑ Rainy Day Fund
- ❑ Borrowing limits that optimize state's credit rating
- ❑ Maintain a business-tax structure that maintains Oregon's competitive economic position.
- ❑ New forms of business incentives and new market tax rates which encourage business growth that will both encourage green business development, and over the long-term, expand state revenues through the creation of new business.
- ❑ New legislation that creates a net cost to the economy should be carefully evaluated until Oregon's economy is fully recovered

## **Government**

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce believes that good government is dependent not only upon public officials who are dedicated to the public interest, but also on processes that are equitable, transparent and accountable. The following will substantially improve good government practices and lead to healthy public policy decisions establishing faith and trust in our government.

- ❑ Concerted and meaningful effort to bridge the divide between the business community and legislature.
- ❑ Budget process overhaul
- ❑ Restructuring Oregon Government executive organizations to improve efficiencies & decision making.

## **Environmental/Energy:**

- ❑ Legislation must be sustainable economically and socially, as well as environmentally, and show a good balance between the three key elements: environmental, economic and social.

## **Healthcare:**

- ⌚ Any Oregon-based healthcare reform should show very convincing potential for reducing the cost of health care, as a prerequisite for consideration. It should not burden employers without demonstrating benefits that will balance the employers' investment.