

LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENT

NAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Nampa Chamber, based on feedback and input from community businesses and industry, has identified [TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE](#) and [WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT](#) as the top key issues impacting business development. We strongly encourage the Idaho Legislature to focus on efforts to make continuing improvements in those two areas.



Tobin Rogers Photography

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

Economic development requires an effective and efficient transportation system. While Idaho has taken some appropriate steps in beginning to address a backlog on transportation maintenance, more efforts are needed to continue to provide for transportation improvements, expansion, and maintenance funding. In particular, the Nampa Chamber requests the Legislature put a priority on identifying funding solutions for much needed improvement projects, such as the widening of Interstate 84 from Nampa to Caldwell - a top priority of the Communities in Motion 2040 regional transportation plan.

The Nampa Chamber supports the renewal and extension of the surplus eliminator approach. In particular this program should be broadened to allow for usage toward transportation improvements as well as maintenance. Additionally, the Nampa Chamber supports transportation funding proposals that provide for local transportation jurisdictions to identify and address priority needs.

Similarly, Idaho's services - power, water, wastewater, streets, and other public infrastructure - continue to need maintenance, improvement, and expansion to meet the demands of our growing communities. The Nampa Chamber encourages the Legislature to continue to push for ways, including local option, to efficiently and effectively meet these demands so business is not limited by a failure of capacity on infrastructure services.

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As Nampa continues to expand and attract business, our businesses need additional skilled and educated workers. Workforce education, training, and development are critical to economic development. To that end, the Nampa Chamber supports a robust educational system designed to be relevant to the real world and that reflects the knowledge and skills students need for success as they enter today's workforce. We believe community colleges, such as the College of Western Idaho, and our other public and private colleges and universities play a vital role in economic stability and growth.



The Nampa Chamber encourages our Legislature to prioritize education funding and career-technical development programs to meet Idaho's workforce needs. The Nampa Chamber supports a K-12 educational system that helps our future workforce develop necessary skills in critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration. We also support efforts to improve and align educational standards with business needs, including policies that provide schools and teachers the time, training, and resources needed to meet challenging standards. We encourage our Legislature to identify solutions for supporting an education system focused on workforce development and promoting opportunities for youth and adults to pursue career-technical education focused on real world skills. Education and training must be a top priority, as all other incentives for business growth and development are ineffective if a company cannot be assured it has a sufficient skilled and trained workforce to meet its needs.

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The Nampa Chamber supports the Idaho Chamber Alliance position to increase 2017 appropriations for Career Technical Programs so as to better meet the high demand for CTE graduates from Idaho's universities, community colleges, and educational institutions.



HEALTHCARE

The healthcare coverage gap continues to persist in Idaho. In Canyon County, approximately 15,000 people lack adequate health coverage due to Idaho's failure to address the gap. This gap also costs Canyon County taxpayers significant amounts each year for indigent assistance at the county level. The Nampa Chamber appreciates the Legislature's concerns regarding expansion of Medicaid, but believes there cannot be further delay on an Idaho solution. The Nampa Chamber encourages our legislators to promptly pursue reform on healthcare issues and the redesign of Medicaid, in particular to address the healthcare gap. The Nampa Chamber also strongly supports continuing efforts to develop a mental health crisis center to serve Canyon County and the western Treasure Valley.



Photo Credit Idaho Statesman

AGRIBUSINESS

Agriculture and its associated businesses play a key role in our community and economy. We support the *2017 Position Statement on Agribusiness Issues*, a joint statement by the Nampa and Caldwell Chambers of Commerce.

LOCAL OPTION AND CONTROL

The Nampa Chamber of Commerce encourages our Legislature to promote local control and decision-making by granting local government authorities the power to adopt a voter-approved local sales tax to fund community economic development projects. The Nampa Chamber also encourages the Legislature to retain and establish tools that allow for local choice as to development of local infrastructure and community projects, as well as effective means for local governments to insure new development contributes for its impact on services.



TAX REFORM

The Nampa Chamber of Commerce supports continuing efforts to review and reform Idaho's tax policies. We support continuing to investigate ways to simplify, balance, and streamline the tax structure and processes, and support lowering corporate and personal taxes. The Nampa Chamber also encourages the ongoing use of certain tax incentives for business where such incentives are tied to proven economic growth.

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