

NAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENT

The Nampa Chamber, based on feedback and input from community businesses and industry, has identified **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** as the top issue impacting business development. We strongly encourage the Idaho Legislature to focus on efforts to make continuing improvements in ensuring Idaho has a well-trained workforce to meet the growing demands of business and industry.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS

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.

The Nampa Chamber strongly supports the efforts to address these demands via increased state funding and stakeholder deliberation. The recommendations provided by both the Higher Education Task Force and the Workforce Development Task Force are well thought out approaches to continue progress in workforce development.



Hill Street Studios

In particular, 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 that 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 supports a K-12 educational system that helps our future workforce develop necessary skills in critical thinking, problem

solving, communication and collaboration. 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.

The Nampa Chamber supports the Idaho Chamber Alliance's position to fund and implement the Task Force recommendations.

HEALTHCARE

The Nampa Chamber strongly supports the request for funding for a Region 3 Crisis Center to serve Canyon County and the western Treasure Valley. Behavioral health crises represent a significant burden to community members, tax-payers, and local employers. In 2016, the cost of involuntary holds in Canyon County was \$1,543,150, and 2017 is projected to exceed that amount. In addition, a behavioral health crisis is distressing and disruptive to families and communities when appropriate care is unavailable. The Region 3 community strongly needs a local resource for community members in crisis. To that end, the Nampa Chamber also strongly supports a collaborative approach, involving commitments from local government and business partners, as well as state support, for the development and funding of a durable Region 3 Crisis Center.

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 encourages our legislators to continue to pursue reform on healthcare issues, in particular to address the healthcare gap.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Economic development requires an effective and efficient transportation system. The Nampa Chamber thanks the Legislature, and particularly the Canyon County delegation, for progress made last year for the continued improvement and widening of I-84 in Nampa. The Nampa Chamber supports ongoing efforts to continue that progress by improvement of I-84 to Caldwell, a top priority of the Communities in Motion 2040 regional transportation plan.

The Nampa Chamber supports transportation funding proposals that provide for local transportation jurisdictions to identify and address priority needs. For Nampa, top priority needs should remain focused on I-84, Karcher Road/Highway 55, and Highway 16 to I-84.

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.

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 ensure 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.

AGRIBUSINESS

Agriculture and its associated businesses play a key role in our community and economy. We support the 2018 Position Statement on Agribusiness Issues, a joint statement by the Nampa and Caldwell Chambers of Commerce.



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