



# 2022 Legislative Affairs Priorities

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

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### **Position Statement**

ChamberWest supports and encourages economic development that is sustainable long-term for both existing and new businesses investing in our area. We support an equitable and streamlined regulatory environment to encourage and enable business prosperity. Considering the continuing pandemic, we support balancing the needs of business along with the health and wellbeing of our community.

### **Balanced Growth and prosperity for new and existing businesses**

As the Wasatch Front region continues to see accelerated rates of new business growth, it is important that sustainability is a priority, both for new and existing business. With the significant advancement of regional developments at the Point of the Mountain (aka The Point), the new Utah State Correctional Facility and Northwest Quadrant of Salt Lake County, we encourage the use of data-driven decision making coupled with acute awareness and consideration of existing business and community needs. ChamberWest looks forward to working proactively with the legislature to utilize available funding to the benefit of business, including possible infrastructure funding. In the current pandemic situation, we support and encourage creation and use of funding to ensure business continuity and to incentivize a strong, skilled, and stable workforce.

### **Maintaining a Modern Regulatory Pattern**

ChamberWest recognizes that business regulation is necessary to create a level playing field to protect commerce, public safety, and general welfare of the community at large. ChamberWest supports and promotes a modern, and balanced regulatory system that is transparent so both existing and potential businesses have the confidence they need to invest in the ChamberWest business region. We support the utilization of innovative programs such as the Office of Regulatory Relief to foster and encourage industry creativity. Additionally, as the tax structure and state revenue sources are considered, we encourage an approach that is balanced and participatory. We support a simplified regulatory framework that is business friendly, improves quality of life, and provides public value in the communities we represent. We seek active and regular consultation between business owners and legislators in developing on-going necessary budget adjustments.

### **Supporting an Educated and Dynamic Workforce and Housing for all**

Creating, retaining, and attracting a highly educated and technically skilled labor force is foundational to achieving sustainable economic development. As we have resources within the Chamber footprint, ChamberWest members encourage the use of technical and skilled trades training specific to the needs of ChamberWest businesses. Furthermore, we support efforts that enable our educational institutions including high school, community colleges, trade schools, and others to create availability and accessibility to these programs. We also encourage legislation that supports innovative solutions for the workforce of tomorrow, including work from home and gig worker opportunities. ChamberWest also recognizes that continued prosperity requires the availability, accessibility, and affordability of housing for a growing labor force. With sizable growth expected to continue over the next several years, ChamberWest encourages policies that focus on development that adds to the stability and livability of our communities.

### **Ensuring infrastructure that supports growth**

In addition to supporting workforce needs, we support efforts to ensure that critical infrastructure, such as public transportation, highway improvements, water, wastewater, broadband are in place and maintained to minimize or eliminate impact on the feasibility, convenience and accessibility of businesses and commute of workers as economic growth continues in the region.

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ChamberWest

*Empowering Local Business*

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**Subcommittee Members**

Stephen Smith, Utah Inland Port Authority – Chair  
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Paul Coates, City of West Jordan  
Greg Fisher, Granite Mountain Storage  
Paul Howard, Chick-fil-A West Valley  
Mayor Kristie Overson, City of Taylorsville  
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Linda Townes Cook, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

Annette Brooks, Zions Bank  
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Nicole Cottle, West Valley City  
Jason Helm, Granger-Hunter Improvement District  
Mark Thorne, CPA, Thorne and Associates  
Mike Sivulich, Jacobsen Construction  
Casey Bulkley, Valley Fair Mall  
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