



2022 Legislative Affairs Priorities

TAX REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE

Position Statement

Utah has a vibrant, stable and highly regarded economy and every effort should be made to maintain this successful system. Modifications or improvements to the tax or the regulatory system of the state should be carefully evaluated, be minimal in impact, and be based upon verifiable information and historical success.

With any changes, we encourage:

Participation – When changes are made, impacted businesses should be heavily involved in the discussions so that both short-term and long-term implications can be clearly defined and considered in a transparent fashion. General consensus through collaborative communication promotes positive outcomes fostering strong relationships. Chamber members will work to build strong partnerships with all government entities to our mutual benefit by accessing resources of the business community for information, trends, impacts, etc.

Consistency – Changes typically cost money, time, and training to implement. Consistency over time leads to increased value to customers, stronger tax revenues, and friendly relationships between government and business.

Equitability – All businesses should be treated equally with consistent requirements. If economic/tax incentives are offered, they should be available to all businesses and fair across industries or sectors of the economy.

Dependability – Services and infrastructure should be available and maintained on a consistent basis, so businesses can depend on operating in a safe business environment and reasonably make plans and projections to budget for future growth and improvements.

We recognize that the health of our K-12 and post-secondary education and skilled technical training systems and the health of our businesses are tied together. Education is critical to provide qualified workers for the future.

If there is an interest in modifying tax policies, we would support the following:

- Any changes to the tax code should carefully consider the economic impact on both large and small businesses and consumers;
- Treat all businesses equally and avoid creating winners and losers;
- Give businesses reasonable time to prepare for and to implement any tax changes;
- Broaden the base with participation by all, minimizing exemptions;
- Encourage revenue neutrality to prevent tax increases;
- Minimize regressive impact on at-risk residents;
- Diversify by using multiple tax revenue sources and avoid earmarking;
- Give preference to stable tax sources with predictable revenue;
- Choose approaches that are simple and low cost in administration, collection, and enforcement;
- Use existing tax structures as much as possible without adding additional taxes;
- Find ways to further support and fund skilled technical training as lack of this training has a negative financial impact on the economy;

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- With recent changes to the income tax, funding for student growth and inflation should remain one of the highest priorities. Education is critical to business – quality of education and quality of the economy are interdependent;
- The funding of government programs should be done in such a way as to allow the greatest amount of flexibility.

Subcommittee Members

Kory Holdaway, KMH Consulting & Government Affairs, Chair
Trena Anderson, Deseret First Credit Union
Rick Clasby, Utah Trucking Association
Jordan Larson, Varex Imaging
Bryan Scott, City Journals
Mark Thorne, CPA, Thorne and Associates

Ron Bigelow
Nichole Farley, Visit Salt Lake
Steve Plum, TalentTeam
Stephen Smith, Utah Inland Port Authority
David Young, America First Credit Union

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