Your Chamber, Your Advocate

On behalf of our members, we support:

GROWTH OF IDAHO’S HI-TECH ECONOMY

Idaho is uniquely positioned for investment for facilities to house information infrastructure due to our low-cost power and lack of natural disasters.

MAINTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

- Tax increment financing by urban renewal districts for community investment
- Current authorization by auditorium districts for conference and sports facilities
- Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) legislation has directly led to thousands of new jobs in Idaho
- Idaho Business Advantage will sunset at the close of 2019, this is a performance-based incentive with a lower threshold than that of TRI allowing more employers to utilize it. During the 2020 session, we will work toward a solution that will ensure this offering is still available to businesses relocating or expanding in Idaho.

IDAHO HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Continue support for increased healthcare availability for all Idahoans. Adopted by the legislature in the 2019 session, Medicaid expansion will provide health care coverage for the working poor in the ‘gap’ population. Funding match would be 90% federal and 10% state.

IMPROVEMENTS TO IDAHO’S INFRASTRUCTURE

Our roads and bridges play an integral role in connecting commerce and industry. The Chamber will continue to advocate for increased revenue to fund maintenance and system improvements for transportation infrastructure.

REVIEW OF K-12 EDUCATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chamber supports recommendations from the Governor K-12 Task Force aimed at improving educational outcomes for Idaho students. Their recommendations will help set the Governor’s education priorities and provide insight to the 2020 Legislature. The Chamber continues to support the Governor’s emphasis on K-3 literacy and the state’s Career Technical Education Programs to reduce the backlog of education training for high-demand technical jobs.

STATE LIQUOR LICENSE REFORM

Allow cities and counties to issue nontransferable liquor licenses for the economic development needs of a community while preserving the value of current population-based licenses.

REVIEW OF POTENTIAL CHANGES TO INITIATIVE PROCESS

In 1997, the Chamber supported many of the reforms made to Idaho's initiative process, these reforms were a compromise that maintained the people's right to make law, while addressing the abuses that had been occurring prior to the enacted reforms. The Chamber opposes any further changes to Idaho's initiative process that would impede the people's ability to make Idaho law.

CHAMBER ADVOCACY TEAM

Bill Connors  
President & CEO

Mat Erpelding  
VP, Government & Community Relations

Bre Brush  
Government Affairs Manager

Go to our website, www.boisechamber.org/advocacy, to learn more about your Chamber’s advocacy efforts.