



Business *perspectives*

March 2015

...to strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economic development, community promotion and member programs and services.

Medical Education College Could Be Key to Economic Growth and Prosperity

At its January board meeting, the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously in support of a proposal to develop and site a health careers education & training college in Roseburg. The chamber considers this proposed higher education institution, not only viable and needed but, a new, stable economic driver to help support our regional economy.

Some of the specifics of the “med-ed” institution proposal embraced by the chamber include the preferred downtown site location, the targeted health care career programs to complement and drive enrollment at Umpqua Community College, programs to help meet current and future workforce training needs in the health care industry and the rural health care provider sponsorship program.

The item of greatest importance to the chamber, of course, is the direct and indirect economic and job creation impact this proposal could have on our community. In addition to construction and related jobs that would be created during development, is the permanent direct employment of over 200 individuals once the doors open. Most of those jobs would be compensated at levels well-above the regional average wage. Indirect employment would push the job totals to between 300 and 350.

Also adding to our local economy, the approximately 1500-student college could attract more than 1000 students from outside the area. The total economic impact, direct

(“Economic Growth” page 4)

Med-Ed College Topic at March Lunch Meeting

The Partnership for Economic Development in Douglas County is leading the charge on a recent proposal for a health careers education and training college in Roseburg. The proposal could offer 17 targeted health care career education programs, on a 1500-student campus in downtown Roseburg. The proposed medical education college will be the program topic at the chamber’s March membership meeting. The program will be presented by Alex Campbell, executive director of The Partnership.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce is a founding member of The Partnership (also known as Umpqua Economic Development Partnership) and at its January board meeting, the chamber voted its unanimous support for the proposed health care career training college. *See related story on this page.*

The membership luncheon sponsored by **Umpqua Training & Employment**, is held at the fairgrounds from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Reservations are required. Cost for chamber members is \$20 for a single ticket and \$150 for a table of eight. For non-members and the general public, the cost is \$30 per person. A buffet lunch is included. Reservations and payment may be made online at www.roseburgareachamber.org/chamber/events.php or by completing the reservation form on page 3 and faxing it to the chamber office. **Reservation deadline is Thursday, March 5, 2015.**

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 9

Sponsored by:

Membership Meeting

Medical Education College

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Conference Hall

Douglas County Fairgrounds



Tuesday, March 10

Business After Hours

State Farm Insurance, Alison Eggers

1790 NW Hughwood Avenue

Thursday, March 19

Chamber 101

8 a.m. Chamber Conference Room

2015 Board of Directors

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Talk One-on-One to Our Legislators

The chamber's one-on-one discussions this month with our state senators and reps are scheduled for Wednesdays, March 11 and 25 at 7:00 am in the chamber conference room. As the chamber has shared previously with the local business community, the list of proposed legislation that is adverse to business development and job growth has been significant this session. The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and its Douglas County businesses have the unique opportunity to effect change during the 2015 legislative session. So, let the business voice be heard!

These conference calls with our local legislators are one of the best benefits of your membership in the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Don't pass up the opportunity to hear firsthand what's happening in Salem during the session and speak directly with Senators Jeff Kruse and Floyd Prozanski and State Representatives Dallas Heard, Cedric Hayden and Wayne Krieger. We look forward to seeing you at the next call.

The chamber's **2015-2016 Public Affairs & Legislative Agenda** is now posted on the chamber website and follows this issue of *Business Perspectives*.



Got News?

Harvey Engineering, Inc. has moved. After their first year in business they have moved to 3000 Stewart Parkway, Ste. 208, a space that allows them to better serve their customers.

Charley's BBQ has won 2nd place two years consecutively for caterer by The News Review People's Choice. They offer catering to groups of all sizes and can help personalize a menu for any special occasion.

Alison Egger's State Farm Insurance Hosts After Hours

Join the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and **Alison Egger's State Farm Insurance Agency** for Business After Hours on Tuesday evening, March 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. located at 1790 NW Hughwood Avenue. The chamber's business networking event will serve the usual delicious hors d'oeuvres, local Umpqua Valley wines and craft beer from Roseburg chamber members. There is a \$3 cost of admission at the door. Don't forget to bring your business cards to enter for great door prizes, including this month's grand prize, a \$300 Seven Feathers package!



Chamber 101

If you are new to the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce in the past year, then you really want to join us on March 19, for **Chamber 101**. Not only will you learn more about the many benefits your chamber membership has to offer but, you'll witness first-hand the chamber business networking advantage.

Chamber 101 is an opportunity for new members to meet chamber staff, meet other new and long-standing members, share about their business and learn more about what the chamber does to support and protect business. Get connected!

At Chamber 101 staff will give an informal presentation about how your membership works for you.

Chamber 101 isn't just for new members. We welcome any member to join us from 8 to 9 a.m. on March 19 in the chamber conference room. Just RSVP to 541-672-2648, ext. 23 by **Monday, March 16**.

Thank You Reinvesting Members

Avista Utilities
Between the Buns Sandwich Shop
& Deli
Casey's Restaurant
Charley's BBQ
Charter Business
Community Cancer Center
DC Law
Department of Veteran Affairs -
Vocational Industries
Douglas County District Attorney's
Office
Douglas County Fairgrounds Complex
Douglas Resident Training Facilities
First Choice Health Insurance, Inc.
First Community Credit Union
i.e. Engineering, Inc.
Jackson Street Mall
KGRV Christian Radio AM700
Land Mark Surveying, Inc.
John Loosley
Shelley Briggs Loosley
McMenamins Roseburg Station
Pub & Brewery
Meadow Creek Retirement Community
Mitchell & Watters, CPA
Nelson & Pyle Woodworking
Neuner, Davidson & Cooley, LLC
Oak Grove Retirement Community
Parenting Education Brokerage
The Partnership for the
Umpqua Rivers
Republican Central Committee
of Douglas County
Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.
Roseburg Urgent Care
The Salvation Army
Sizzler
Sunrise Enterprises, Inc.
Super 8 Roseburg
Tim's Appliance & Mattress Center
Tyree Oil, Inc.
Umpqua Valley Arts Association
Umpqua's Last Resort
Windmill Inn of Roseburg
WorkSource Douglas Employment
Department

Marketing Roseburg As Visitor Destination At Travel Show

Roseburg and the Land of Umpqua was promoted, front and center, as a premier visitor destination at the 2015 Travel & Adventure Show in Santa Clara, California last month. The show is an excellent opportunity to market Roseburg face-to-face to more than 16,000 attendees from the San Francisco Bay area. Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center staff connected with travel professionals and vacationers at the two-day event, highlighting the many attractions and activities in the Land of Umpqua.

There are fun events and activities in and around the Land of Umpqua in the spring. Check out these happenings during the month of March:

- Umpqua Chamber Orchestra & UCC Chamber Choir, March 3
- 45th Annual Greatest of the Grape, March 7
- Car Show, March 7-8
- St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 14
- St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl, March 14
- The Lee Trio, March 22
- Spring Craft Fair, March 27-29
- Antique Show, March 28-29

For detailed information on these and other exciting events visit our website at www.visitroseburg.com/events.

Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce FiveStar Member Club

welcome New Member

Community Cancer Center

joining

Avista Utilities

Oregon Pacific Bank

Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc.

Gordon Wood Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.



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Economic Growth

and indirect, of the college on Douglas County would be significant with payroll and locally-purchased services nearing \$35 million annually.

To learn more about the feasibility study and specifics of the medical education college proposal, be sure and attend the chamber's March membership meeting luncheon. *See related story on front page.*

Business Perspectives Publication Deadline

Business Perspectives is an official publication of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce published monthly.



Chamber members are encouraged to submit items for publication. Copy deadline is the 10th of each month preceding the publication date. Information received after that date will be published subject to urgency and space availability.



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Business Perspectives
Vol. 32 No. 3

March Calendar

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>9 11:30 a.m. Membership Meeting, Douglas County Fairgrounds (see flyer on page 3 for reservation information)</p> <p>10 8 a.m. Greeter's Committee*, Super 8 Conference Room 5 to 7 p.m. Business After Hours, State Farm Insurance, Alison Eggers, 1790 NW Hughwood Avenue</p> <p>11 7 a.m. Legislative Conference Call*</p> | <p>12 Project Leadership / Medical & Human Services</p> <p>19 8 a.m. Chamber 101*</p> <p>24 8 a.m. Greeter's Committee*, Super 8 Conference Room</p> <p>25 7 a.m. Legislative Conference Call*</p> |
|---|--|
- * Chamber Member Only Event/Activity. Official chamber meetings are held in the chamber conference room unless otherwise noted.*

Workshops & Seminars

March 6 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., **1st Steps in Starting a Business**, UBC, 522 SE Washington Ave. Cost FREE. To register for # 35007 call 541-440-7662.

March 12 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., **"Wage and Hour Law"**, Umpqua Community College Technical Center, Room 119 sponsored by Oregon Employer Council Douglas County, Umpqua Community College and Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Cost \$49 before March 9. To register, call 541-672-2648, ext. 22.

March 20 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., **1st Steps in Starting a Business**, UBC, 522 SE Washington Ave. Cost FREE. To register for # 35008 call 541-440-7662.

Economic Trends

	Dec 2014	Dec 2013	Jan 2015	Jan 2014
Total Employment, DC	38,728	38,117	n/a	n/a
Total Unemployment, DC	3,725	4,370	n/a	n/a
Unemployment Rate	9.3%	10.2%	n/a	n/a

City of Roseburg Building Permit Values

	Dec 2014	Dec 2013	Jan 2015	Jan 2014
Residential	\$636,436	\$618,122	\$282,750	\$658,146
Commercial/Public	\$299,800	\$2,444,329	\$1,025,244	\$265,098
Total	\$936,236	\$3,062,451	\$1,307,994	\$829,784

	Dec 2014	Dec 2013	Jan 2015	Jan 2014
Relocation Requests Received	3	4	4	17

Lumber Composite Price (per 1000bf)	\$366	\$379	\$377	\$400
Structural Panel Composite Price (per 1000sf)	\$390	\$363	\$388	\$364

Information compiled from various sources. Some figures may be preliminary estimates.

Where Are They Now?

Chelsea (Bittner) Warren was the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Future First Citizen recipient. Chelsea has attended two colleges since receiving her award. She went to Oregon State University for three years before switching to the same program through Capella University Online and will graduate next month with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Suma Cum Laude.



While at OSU, Chelsea participated in many activities. She was a member of the Honors College and participated in intramural flag football for two years. She also took on a project with the biochemistry professor, designing graphics for a textbook to be used in his classes. At Capella, she is a member of the Psychology Club.

Although she has not yet graduated, she has had the privilege of being in a wonderful full time position as a residential treatment advisor with Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. This is a psychiatric residential care facility. She currently works with young girls who suffer from trauma and many other aspects of mental illness. This job has been crucial in her educational choices, and has sent her on a path toward counseling.

Chelsea currently lives on Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. In 2013 she married Chris Warren who is also from Roseburg and was serving at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. When they decided to get married, she made the choice to leave Oregon State for an equally rewarding online program, so she could move to her husband's next duty station. The winter in Minot can be quite extreme, but in the summer they enjoy camping, fishing, and many other outdoor activities. They also love to travel, and even got married on a Caribbean cruise and shared that with their families.

Chelsea plans on continuing with a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy at Capella University. Chelsea states, "I am constantly reminded of the wonderful opportunities I have been given to succeed. Being awarded as a Future First Citizen was and continues to be one of my proudest accomplishments."

New Markets & New Hope

by Alex Campbell, Executive Director
The Partnership

The Partnership's effort around a possible medical education college is very exciting. It's good to swing for the fences once in a while. John Tapogna of EcoNorthwest pointed out at the chamber's Economic Forecast 2015 last November that those of us in southwest Oregon should be looking for new ways to capture Medicare and other expenditures of, what he termed, the "silver tsunami." A number of factors suggest that a growing number of retirees are likely to find Douglas County an appealing place to live.

However, there are things happening here in Douglas County today that should make us optimistic about our economic future. Our market economy continues to produce innovation and new ideas and Douglas County is no exception.

Through our work with LeanLink and in cooperation with the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), we have seen local manufacturers take on the challenge of engaging employees in their quest to become more efficient, more competitive operations. Several local startups are establishing new markets with unusual new products and shipping them, literally, all over the world.

My colleague at the Small Business Development Center, Anya Petersen-Frey, frequently reminds her clients to think about markets outside Douglas County. Our most successful companies have always done so and I am excited to see so many following their example.

Business Member Spotlight Bailey Veterinary Clinic

Brief Business History: Don Bailey started Bailey Veterinary Clinic in 1950. It started in a small attachment off the family home with all the family members helping. Dr. Don's brother Bob Bailey joined the practice eight years later and Don's son Blair Bailey in 1982. After 65 years, now with three partners Dr. Blair Bailey, Dr. Barry Downie and Dr. Paul Bailey and over 45 support staff the clinic has grown with the community. In March they will add a veterinarian making a total of seven full time veterinarians.

Business Philosophy: It is our mission to create a positive experience through veterinary medicine for our patients, clients, staff and community. Our health care team strives to provide quality medical care in a safe, clean, respectful and compassionate environment. Our staff is committed to excellent service and genuine concern for our client and their animals.

Industry Trend: In today's fast growing technology we strive to stay current for the best diagnostics for your pet's health. Our clinic offers 24 hour emergency services for large and small animals, dentistry with dental radiography, laser therapy, orthopedics, internal medicine, fully staffed in house hematology laboratory, endoscopy, ultrasonography and nutritional counseling.

Why Bailey Veterinary Clinic joined the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce: It is important for us to stay connected and support our community.

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RACC's Defense of Business on Proposed Legislation

As bills are filed, introduced and scheduled for public hearings in House and Senate committees, the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce weighs in, and will continue to weigh in, its support or opposition on proposed legislation affecting our businesses. The following is a list of House and Senate bills which the chamber has positions on to date:

Support

- HB 2114 Extends sunset for tax credit for employer-provided dependent care assistance.
- HB 2289 Created tax credit for cleanup of brownfield property.
- HB 2507 Increases R & D tax credit.
- HB 2752 Increases R & D tax credit.
- SB 0048 Extends sunset for tax credit for employer-provided dependent care assistance.
- SB 0195 Reduces personal income tax rates for certain taxpayers by modifying income tax brackets.
- SB 0197 Reduces threshold for "small business tax cut" qualification.
- SB 0433 Reduces rate of tax on capital gains of personal income and corporate income and excise taxpayers.
- SB 0438 Allows taxpayer to expense certain business assets for income or corporate excise tax purposes.

Oppose

- HB 2005 Requires all employers to implement paid sick leave time for employees.
- HB 2007 Wage transparency bill.
- HB 2008 Increases Oregon minimum wage rate in graduated steps through 2017.
- HB 2009 Increases Oregon minimum wage rate in graduated steps to \$15 per hour by 2018.
- HB 2010 Flex schedule mandate.
- HB 2077 Corporate tax disclosure.
- HB 2079 Requires add-back of highly compensated employee compensation as taxable corporate income.
- HB 2082 Carbon tax.
- HB 2086 Carbon tax.
- HB 2101 Creates or adjusts sunset for certain income and corporate excise tax expenditures not required under federal law or Oregon Constitution.
- HB 2104 Creates or adjusts sunset for certain income and corporate excise tax expenditures not required under federal law or Oregon Constitution.
- HB 2105 Creates and adjusts sunset dates for certain exemptions from property taxation.
- HB 2151 Limits, for purposes of personal income taxation, availability of itemized deductions.
- HB 2152 Limits amount of certain tax expenditures connected to economic development allowed to corporate excise taxpayer to percentage of Oregon taxable income.
- HB 2153 Limits, for purposes of personal income taxation, availability of itemized deductions.
- HB 2158 Increased income and corporate tax rates if high school graduation rates fall below certain percentage.
- HB 2159 Carbon tax.
- HB 2192 Low Carbon Fuel Standards.
- HB 2386 BOLI can issue temporary cease and desist order under certain circumstances.
- HB 2387 BOLI can administratively compel bond by certain employers.
- HB 2398 C Corp tax increase.
- HB 2542 Included accrued paid vacation and personal business leave in definition of "compensation" for purposes of wage claims.
- HB 2572 Carbon footprint labeling mandates.
- HB 2600 Requires continuation of health insurance for employee on family leave on same terms as when employee is not on leave.
- HB 2606 Family leave to care for siblings.
- HB 2607 Reduces minimum average hours worked for eligibility for family leave from 25 to 24.
- HB 2646 Parental leave for school activities.
- HJR0001 Eliminates 3/5 vote requirement for tax increases.
- HJR0009 Eliminates 3/5 vote requirement for tax increases for bills requiring simple majorities.
- HJR0010 Tax on carbon emissions.
- HJR0024 Eliminates 3/5 vote requirement for tax increases for bills requiring simple majorities.
- SB 0324 Low Carbon Fuel Standards sunset repeal.
- SB 0327 Increases Oregon minimum wage in graduated steps through 2017.
- SB 0454 Requires all employers to implement paid sick time for employees.
- SB 0597 Increases Oregon minimum wage rate in graduated steps to \$13.50 per hour by 2017.
- SB 0615 Creates Oregon Retirement Savings Board in office of state treasurer.

If member businesses become aware of proposed legislation that would either advance or hinder our businesses and their endeavors for job creation and economic growth, please email that information to Debbie Fromdahl at the Roseburg Area Chamber.

2015 – 2016

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS &
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**



MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce through its government affairs division is to represent and protect the interests of the Douglas County business community. To this end, the chamber monitors issues and activities of local, state and federal government and, when appropriate, takes positions of support or opposition on behalf of business. In further pursuit of the most business-friendly environment possible, the chamber will, solicit pro-business, chamber-friendly candidates to serve on commissions and run for public office. The RACC board of directors will endorse candidates for public office when it determines the mission of the chamber will be best served by said candidates election to office.

The chamber weighs in on a number of business issues. The following are the public affairs and legislative initiatives of greatest interest to the Roseburg Area Chamber in 2015—2016:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES

General

- Foster a business-friendly, collaborative environment and open communications among and between the RACC, its members and the business community and local government entities.
- Monitor, advocate and communicate about tax, license and fiscal policy issues that affect the RACC membership and the general business community.

County/City Specifics

- *Transportation Infrastructure*
Transportation infrastructure funding is critical to economic development in our community, and as such is a major priority of the RACC. We will research local transportation infrastructure proposals and projects and actively support those deemed beneficial to local business and commerce.
- *Economic Development*
The RACC will support local initiatives that facilitate economic growth and development for Douglas County. The RACC will work cooperatively with community partners, local governments and other institutions and organizations to improve Roseburg and Douglas County's competitiveness in attracting new jobs and growing community investment. We will support local initiatives that reduce the costs of job creation. It is also our commitment to ensure home-grown businesses have no reason to look elsewhere when considering expansion and that prospective businesses will find Douglas County an unquestionable first choice. We must streamline our development process and ensure our standards for development are reasonable.
- *Local Transient Lodging Tax Funds*
The RACC will continue to monitor the city's use of transient lodging tax dollars not distributed to the RACC under contract for visitor services to ensure they are used to effectively promote tourism in accordance with Oregon law. The RACC will monitor (and advocate for its business members) any attempt to increase existing local transient lodging tax or create new countywide tax.

2015-2016 Public Affairs & Legislative Agenda

- *Budget Priorities/Fiscal Responsibility/Government Efficiency*
The RACC believes each local government entity should maintain a general objective that expenditures not increase at rates greater than population and inflation. Exceptions would be made conditionally for capital improvement projects needed for infrastructure. Taxes should be used equitably to provide services and programs that benefit economic growth and the health and welfare of citizens. All levels of local government must be prepared to prioritize their needs to prepare for a future that holds the potential for less state/federal financial support. Decision-making processes and policies should consider impact on private-sector job creation or private-sector job elimination.

City Specifics

- *Transportation System Development Charges (SDCs)*
The RACC will monitor the city's transportation SDCs to ensure 2014 reduction remains in effect.
- *Other System Development Charges (SDCs)*
The RACC will monitor and potentially weigh-in on the city's sewer, water, storm water and parks system development charges.
- *Building Dept/Permitting*
The RACC would support efforts by the city to bring building department back to the city to ensure more efficient and timely review, determinations and issuances of building and related permits.
- *Urban Growth Boundary Expansion (UGB)*
The RACC will continue to support UGB expansion as it relates to business, commercial and industrial growth and development.

STATE LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES

By and through its professional staff, with the support of an active Government Affairs Team, the RACC will promote and enhance mutually beneficial relations among its members, the business community and the Douglas County legislative delegation in order to address the following:

- *Natural Resources/Forest Management and Timber Harvest*
The RACC will advocate for and support increased timber production on state-held lands. As federal payments diminish and ultimately cease, the need for proper forest management that allows for harvest and reforestation is imperative to the economic growth and sustainability of our community. RACC will work with local, state and federal officials and entities, business and timber-industry leaders to implement the BLM's desired alternative of the Western Oregon Plan Revision.

- *Employment*

RACC would support legislation to remove the 10-hour daily overtime statute for manufacturers; legislation reforming key elements of Oregon’s family leave law so it is in alignment with federal regulations; legislation protecting confidential investigation materials in personnel files from inspection by employee. Additionally, the chamber supports legislation that would strengthen provisions for denial of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits for workplace misconduct. The chamber continues to back legislation that would support an employer’s right to apply and enforce zero-tolerance workplace drug policies.

RACC will oppose legislation that would place regulatory burden on employers, including the expansion of mandated unpaid leave opportunities including potential mandated paid-family-leave legislation, paid for either by employee or employer, mandated employer-paid medical leave for all employees in the state of Oregon and/or further expansion of other mandated paid leaves. RACC opposes any legislation expanding the use of UI benefits beyond intended use, including legislative “sweeps” of UI funds or UI funds for striking workers or employees on family or medical leave.

On January 1, 2015, Oregon’s minimum wage increased to \$9.25. The annual automatic increase in Oregon’s minimum wage is based on the Portland CPI. The RACC will support options for reform and relief including tying the annual increase to a regional formula, the creation of a youth employment plan for 16-18 year olds or a “training stipend” to name a few. The RACC opposes any proposed legislation to further increase Oregon’s minimum wage beyond current rate.

RACC would oppose legislation increasing Oregon OSHA penalties and potential legislation mandating a blanket ergonomic standard for Oregon employers; legislation that would weaken or undermine the Oregon Supreme Court’s decision in *Emerald Steel v. BOLI*; or any legislation that would expand employer liability through new and/or expanded protected classes and activities.

RACC opposes legislation that would expand prevailing wage law, especially to private construction, because of potential damage to the economy and job creation.

- *Transportation Infrastructure Funding*

The RACC will consider and support proposals that increase state funding allocations for road infrastructure needs. There is currently a significant funding gap for road infrastructure needs across the state. RACC will support, endorse and aggressively advocate for funding for current and future transportation and transportation infrastructure projects deemed important to business and commerce. RACC would support legislation reforming ODOT’s permitting procedures for access to state highways.

- *Environment/Energy*

RACC supports legislation or policy suspending new or expanded environmental and energy regulatory programs and efforts to streamline existing programs. RACC is also supportive of legislation that would retain or expand the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC).

2015-2016 Public Affairs & Legislative Agenda

RACC would oppose legislation creating a new layer of approvals/permitting with a state EIS program and any legislation increasing maximum penalties imposed by Oregon DEQ. RACC would oppose any effort to remove sunset and make permanent 2009 legislation authorizing DEQ's adoption of severe carbon intensity standards and/or any legislation linking the state's procurement of goods and services to greenhouse gas production of materials, transportation and manufacturing.

- *Workforce Development*

The RACC will support initiatives that positively influence the quality of our workforce. These include initiatives to retrain dislocated and existing workers to improve their job skills; fund local business and industry seeking to expand workforce through training; programs focused on preparing youth for the workforce with marketable skills that employers find desirable (including "soft skills"); identifying current and future needs of the local business community and supporting a state and local workforce development system (including K-12 and higher ed) that meets those needs. RACC would support legislation targeted workforce investments in high-demand areas that generate high-wage career opportunities vital to economic development such as manufacturing and engineering.

- *Transient Lodging Tax Funds*

The RACC will oppose any attempt to repeal the state of Oregon's 2003 Transient Lodging Tax law.

- *State Budget Priorities/Fiscal Responsibility/Government Efficiency*

The chamber continues to support any legislation that would repeal or sunset Measures 66 and 67; reducing personal income tax rates applied to capital gains; business tax credits that promote economic development and job creation. The RACC would oppose proposed M66 or M67-like legislation or measures. RACC would support legislation requiring that all Department of Revenue and county property appraisers' valuations of private property comply with Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal practice. RACC supports PERS reform legislation that is fair, equitable and sustainable for all Oregonians.

The use of taxes should be fair and equitable in providing services and programs that benefit economic growth and the health and welfare of citizens. The RACC will support incentives to encourage government mergers and consolidations at all levels; eliminating duplication of services and performance audits to determine the effectiveness of programs. Spending decisions must be prioritized in order for sustainable tax relief. Key assets for economic growth, such as funding for roads and workforce education and training should be maintained and even enhanced where private sector economic activity will be bolstered. Decision-making processes and policies should consider impact on private-sector job creation or private-sector job elimination.

- *Education Funding*

The RACC will continue to support educational programs and proposals (both K-12 and higher education) that will train the workforce to meet the current and future needs of our area's private sector. RACC will continue to advocate for stable and secure funding of Oregon's education system. (See Workforce Development)

- *Health Care*

The chamber would oppose legislation that would increase cost shift from public programs to private payers in order to cover the significant budget shortfall for the state of Oregon's Medicaid programs; legislation that would in any way change the way public employee health benefits are provided if it leads to additional cost shifting; or, any legislation proposing additional health care mandates not based on medical necessity.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES

By and through its professional staff with the support of an organized and active Government Affairs Team, the RACC will promote and enhance mutually beneficial relations among its members, the business community and the Oregon Congressional Delegation in order to successfully advocate on behalf of the following:

- *Natural Resources/Forest Management and Timber Harvest*

RACC will continue to advocate for effective forest management to include timber harvest on federal land. RACC will work with local, state and federal officials and entities, business and timber-industry leaders toward the implementation of the BLM's desired alternative of the Western Oregon Plan Revision. As federal payments will diminish and ultimately cease, the need for proper forest management that allows for harvest is imperative to the economic growth and sustainability of our community. RACC will join community partners, local government and state officials in support of the federally-proposed O&C Trust, Conversation & Jobs Act—HR 1526 or better.

Additionally, RACC will continue to support local efforts (i.e. Communities for Healthy Forests) to effect changes in federal administrative rules to require prompt assessment, fuels reduction and restoration of forests on federal lands after a fire or other catastrophic event.

The RACC will oppose proposed federal legislation or administrative rules that would adversely affect the development and/or growth of our region's biomass energy industry.

- *Transportation Infrastructure / Highway Trust Fund*

To effectively facilitate the development and funding of critical transportation infrastructure priorities, the RACC will promote partnerships among its members and the business community, local governments and ODOT. The RACC will call upon our federal delegates to continue to see effective solutions to all aspects of transportation funding and, specifically, the reauthorization of any potential federal highway or transportation infrastructure funding or bill.

RACC would support passage of a modest, phased-in increase of the federal gas tax, indexed to inflation, to fully fund the Highway Trust Fund. The Highway Trust Fund is dedicated to maintaining and modernizing our surface transportation infrastructure, primarily funded through revenues from the federal gas tax, which has not been increased for over twenty years. These revenues have gradually fallen short of what is needed to address transportation

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needs as Americans are driving less and vehicles are more fuel-efficient. In July 2014, Congress enacted temporary measures to provide adequate funding through May 2015. However, without additional action, the Highway Trust Fund will again face bankruptcy. Furthermore, it will need nearly \$100 billion in new revenues to simply maintain current spending through 2020. According to the State of Oregon, the state receives over half a billion dollars each year from the Highway Trust Fund, which is the only source of funding for new construction projects that preserve and improve our state highway system.

- *Card Check (proposed as “The Employee Free Choice Act”)*
The RACC previously opposed the Employee Free Choice Act as it would eliminate the secret ballot currently used to determine if unions will represent employees in the workplace and could expose employees to coercion and intimidation. One-sided increases conflict with any sense of fairness or balance. The RACC has no position on whether unions are of benefit to employees or not; that decision is up to employees.. While this is not a current or anticipated issue for 2015-16, the chamber’s position remains.
- *Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im)*
RACC would support a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank to ensure continued competitiveness of American exporters (in 2014 Congress extended the bank’s reauthorization until June 2015). The Export-Import Bank is a small federal agency that provides financing to U.S. companies, including small and medium-sized businesses, to sell their products in global markets. Without it, many small businesses would lose out to their overseas competitors, many of which are backed by export credit agencies 18 times the size of the U.S. Ex-Im Bank. In today’s highly competitive markets, access to financing provided by the Ex-Im Bank often determines which firm—from which country—gets the sale. Its positive impact on American business is undeniable. In fiscal year 2013, it provided financing or guarantees for \$37.4 billion in U.S. exports, thereby supporting more than 200,000 American jobs. Nearly 90%, or 3,413, of Ex-Im’s transactions supported U.S. small businesses in 2013. In Oregon, the Ex-Im Bank supported over \$1 billion in exports from 88 companies.
- *Immigration Reform*
RACC would support sensible, comprehensive federal immigration reform that 1) reforms the visa system for both low and high-skilled workers, 2) creates a mandatory national worker verification system, 3) creates a path to legalization for the over 11 million undocumented workers currently in the United States, and 4) secures the borders. RACC believes passage of such legislation is necessary to give the United States and U.S. businesses an immigration system necessary to remain competitive in the global economy. Our current immigration system is not serving the interests of our economy, our businesses, our workers, or our collective security. Without immediate reform, America will not be able to compete for the world’s best talent, hardest workers, or biggest dreamers. And, we will be unable to sustain vital programs for the elderly and needy without the additional workers—both low-skilled and high-skilled—necessary to grow our economy and tax base.



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