

Bristol Chamber of Commerce

2010 Legislative Issues

Economic Incentive Package

The Chamber supports continued development and implementation of a disciplined, but competitive economic incentive package that creates jobs and enhances the tax base.

Education

Prioritize education, fostering a better educated and skilled workforce.

K-12 Public Education

The Chamber supports efforts to adequately fund existing public education responsibilities, even if that requires additional money.

Higher Education

The Chamber supports efforts to make higher education more affordable and accessible.

Collective Bargaining

The Chamber opposes efforts to extend collective bargaining rights to state and local public sector employees.

Energy and Environment

The Chamber supports efforts to ensure a clean and healthy environment, including reasonable measures to recover and reclaim, as well as to conserve and maintain valuable natural resources.

Healthcare

The Chamber supports responsible, market-based efforts to make healthcare more available and affordable.

The Chamber supports continued evaluation of a small business health insurance risk pool concept, among other approaches, that would improve on the possibility of small companies providing health insurance benefits to their employees.

Legal Reform

Protect business climate with comprehensive legal reform that included caps for product liability, punitive and non-economic damages and medical malpractice.

Taxes

The Chamber will continue to work to protect our state's favorable business tax climate and support tax policies that encourage business opportunities and investment in both Tennessee and Virginia.

Tourism

The Chamber supports funding for tourism marketing to improve our ability to compete in the global tourism arena and inform potential visitors of our attractions.

Transportation

The Chamber supports passage of a long term, sustainable source of revenue for transportation infrastructure improvements; and innovative funding solutions for passenger and freight rail.

Workers' Compensation

Guard workers' compensation laws by keeping them adaptable to a changing workplace. Ensure workers' comp remains a non-adversarial system, free from fraud, serving the employee and employer in a cost effective manner.

Workforce Development

The Chamber will continue to be a voice in calling for improved workforce development and training programs. The ultimate goal is to improve the caliber of the labor force, an objective critical to our economic progress.