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2010 Legislative Agenda

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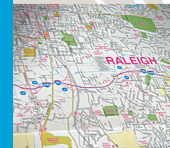
The mission of the
Greater Raleigh Chamber of
Commerce is to sustain and
further develop a thriving
economy and to enhance
our community's
quality of life.

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The
Chamber
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce



@ www.raleighchamber.org

2010 Legislative Agenda

Building a
Thriving Economy
and Enhancing
our Quality of Life



Enhance the business climate
and quality of life in the Triangle.

Overview

The Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Legislative Agenda represents the Chamber's commitment to creating an improved business climate and quality of life for Raleigh, Wake County, and the Research Triangle region of North Carolina. Our agenda addresses the key concerns of our 2,700 member firms, which represent two-thirds of the private sector employment in Wake County.

The issues in this agenda are based on feedback received from surveys of the Chamber's membership. Volunteers and staff also offered specific expertise and perspectives in order to thoroughly evaluate these issues and their potential impact on businesses and the community.

The Chamber adopted the agenda in early 2010, empowering staff and volunteer leadership to communicate these positions to key policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Chamber strongly believes these legislative recommendations will lead to a thriving economy for local businesses and an enhanced quality of life for area citizens.

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Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda

EDUCATION

- ◆ Continue funding for the North Carolina Community College System's BioNetwork initiative, which includes Wake Tech Community College
- ◆ Support North Carolina State University's capital request to assist with future research and development projects
- ◆ Oppose additional unfunded state mandates on local school districts
- ◆ Support efforts to address teacher quality and retention concerns
- ◆ Fully fund university research in the region's identified cluster industries, including: Bioenergy Initiative (NCSU), Research Competitive Fund (UNCGA), Entrepreneurship and Regional Cluster-based economic development (NCSU), and Automotive Plug-In Technology (NCSU)

TARGET CLUSTER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

- ◆ Support efforts to strengthen the state's ties to the military and defense industry, including the Defense and Security Technology Accelerator
- ◆ Increase funding for community colleges for customized industry training and equipment

TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ Continue phase out of the Highway Trust Fund transfer to the General Fund
- ◆ Support Gap Funding for Triangle Expressway Extension
- ◆ Support High Speed Rail funding from Raleigh to Richmond

BUSINESS CLIMATE

- ◆ Support business-backed compromise for H. 813, Uniform Apportionment of Tort Responsibility

Research Triangle Regional Legislative Agenda

Regional Competitiveness

- ~ Support competitive salaries for K-12 teachers, community college instructors, and university professors
- ~ Oppose efforts to weaken North Carolina's right-to-work status, such as allowing public employees the right to collectively bargain

Job Creation/Retention

- ~ Support continued investment in the Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG)/One North Carolina
- ~ Appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to research expanding support for small business
- ~ Support adding digital media and entertainment/serious gaming industry to tax credits offered to the film industry

Green/Health/Water

- ~ Expand renewable energy tax credits to include energy saving retrofits and construction
- ~ Create a study commission to review ways to incent small businesses to provide quality health care for employees
- ~ Ensure regional, long-term, and collaborative efforts when creating rules that affect water supply

Transportation

- ~ Support a funding mechanism for investments in commuter and regional rail throughout the state