McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council Advocacy

*Guide 2016-2017*

The Government Affairs Council is guided by the following:

Advocacy Guide

Economic Development:

Workforce//Employment//Education//Transportation

**Workforce:** Job creation and job preparation is a core focus of the Chamber and the Chamber endorses strategies that develops and preserves local talent. We advocate for:

* Workforce education
* Reducing restrictive wage/hour laws and regulation
* Flexible work week or other alternative schedules
* Reduced worker’s compensation costs
* Reduced laws that mandate new employee benefits, or create new “protected class” designations
* Legal hiring practices
* Opportunities to complete college degrees within our community
* Local technical and trades education and internships;
* Increased educational support for entrepreneurial activities and for business start-ups

**Employment:** We advocate for:

* The creation, expansion and recruitment of business within our community
* The development of the McMinnville Industrial Park and the Municipal Airport as sites for job-creating business locations

**Transportation:** We advocate for:

* Timely and appropriate investments in infrastructure such that a deficit in infrastructure does not become a barrier to businesses.

Housing//Community Development//Land Use: We advocate for:

* A long-term strategic and General Plan for residential, commercial, and industrial development for the city and county, with appropriate ongoing updates
* Development and redevelopment in the downtown and the core urban areas
* More local influence over land use issues
* Reduction of land use roadblocks to new economic activity
* Land use policies that provide for reliable and predictable growth
* New regulations and/or fees only when justified by measurable and corresponding benefits

Finance//Taxation//Government Regulation//Public Service

We advocate for:

* Simplification of government regulation and reduction in duplicate and/or inconsistent regulations
* Fewer mandates on employers
* Regular review of System Development Charges to ensure that fees reflect current and accurate costs, needed projects, and accurate growth projections, with a goal of ensuring new development pays its fair share of infrastructure costs while preventing fees from becoming impediments to economic growth
* Maintenance and upkeep of community assets such as roads, buildings, schools, ect; and that long-term maintenance funding is available when needed

Healthcare//Insurance

The Chamber believes a healthy community is a productive and profitable community. We advocate for:

* Legislation and/or regulation that maintains or reduces costs and/or maintains or reduces mandated coverages to business and consumers
* Legislation and/or regulation that leads to a competitive and healthy insurance market

This document is designed to establish guidelines for legislative issues impacting business. It will be updated as needed by the Government Affairs Council.

- End -

(revised: 12.2016)