

## Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Agenda 2016

### Introduction

The Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce continues to serve as the advocate for the business community. In a focused effort to fulfill our commitment we have made to our members, we have been able to establish the Chamber's reputation as the primary advocacy resource available to businesses and organizations in this community. Looking forward, the Chamber's staff and Board of Directors will work to ensure that the Delaware area in Ohio is top-of-mind awareness for future business investment.

Advocating for business friendly initiatives is important to our legislative efforts. Our members' policy needs deserve top priority, and we will work towards meeting their diversified requirements.

The Chamber will continue to serve the business community and promote business-friendly government policy. Creating new relationships and fostering established ones are essential elements to the success of our chamber members. The Chamber prides itself on achieving these relationships and positive legislative results through education, advocacy and collaboration. Despite limited resources, the Delaware chamber effectively uses volunteers who dedicate their time and strengths to benefit Delaware area businesses and their needs.

The Chamber's Public Policy agenda issues as detailed below will serve as a benchmark for the legislative and regulatory priorities that it maintains and helps direct the Chamber's public policy efforts.

The Chamber reaffirms our commitment to members that we will always work on behalf of the Delaware area business community.

### Legislative and Regulatory Agenda Issues

#### Education

- Advocate for the enhancement of effective education standards that will help prepare students to compete in a high-tech workforce.
- Support and advance programs that encourage students to choose promising career paths, such as math, science, and engineering fields, as well as the trades and advanced manufacturing.
- Work with local businesses to provide learning opportunities to students in the area through the development of internship programs and teacher training.
- Support our area's institutions of higher education through promotion of research and development programs that showcase our area as a center for premier technology and development.

#### Energy & Environment

- Advocate on behalf of businesses in the Delaware area to ensure that legislative and regulatory changes are based on factual data and do not economically disadvantage the Delaware business community.
- Promote greater cooperation between state agencies and local businesses to streamline services and limit requirements that place additional burdens on businesses, while not compromising environmental quality in the Delaware area.
- Continue to partner with local environmentally responsible businesses and organizations to advocate on behalf of the Chamber to lower energy costs and ensure members are able to access affordable energy services.
- Support and expand "green initiatives" at the local and state levels that emphasize alternative energy, energy efficiency and cost –saving opportunities for businesses.

#### Health Care

- Continue to support market-based solutions to the country's health care crisis to make private and public health care more affordable and accessible without placing undue burdens on employers.
- Partner with regional organizations to promote education and awareness opportunities that will help small and medium-sized businesses address health care costs, such as: overuse of health care services and the impact on health care costs, developing consumer-driven health care markets, health savings accounts, and the cost of health care mandates.
- Advocate on behalf of the Chamber within local and state forums to work toward a solution to the increasing uninsured population that does not require unreasonable measures be fulfilled by the business community.

# Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce: It's Good for Business!

## **Regional Cooperation**

- Maintain and increase regional partnerships and advocacy that cross jurisdictional boundaries and compliment different priorities.
- Maintain the Chamber's presence as an advocate for the business community while partnering with other business community representatives on legislative priorities.
- Advocate on a regional basis for the growth of new and expanding industries that will enhance the growth of the Delaware area's largest employers and manufacturers.

## **Safety**

- Promote safe and healthy working environments through cost-effective training and education programs to member businesses to prevent lost-time injuries and accidents within the Delaware business community.
- Work with agencies and employer groups to provide fair and understandable regulations and standards to improve and implement workplace safety.
- Work in cooperation with state and local agencies to assist members of the Chamber and control workers' compensation costs through education, awareness and cost-saving initiatives.
- Advocate on behalf of the Delaware region's business community to encourage continued incentives for employers that promote safe workplace environments by educating and training workers.
- Work to ensure fairness in the workers' compensation system through dialogue with the Industrial Commission, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, and the state legislature.
- Promote the development of additional incentives that assist employers that promote safety, training and education and informed decision-making in the workplace.

## **Taxes**

- Promote federal, state and local tax policies that reduce the financial burden on businesses and allow them to invest valuable dollars to expand and grow their company and the local economy.
- Partner with all state agencies to remove regulatory burdens on the Delaware area business community and support the growing business industries and initiatives throughout the area.
- Advocate for the continuation and development of programs that help support and grow businesses throughout the Delaware area.

## **Trade**

- Advocate the enactment of local and state agreements that expand global trade opportunities for Delaware area businesses.
- Encourage local organizations to recognize the importance of the growing international economy and support global economic and trade opportunities for Delaware area businesses.

## **Transportation**

- Advance and protect the Delaware area's business community through strategic transportation advancements aimed at increasing economic development and business growth opportunities.
- Advance the community's transportation and infrastructure upgrades and improvements through local and state advocacy.
- Educate legislators and agency officials on the changing infrastructure needs and efforts of the Delaware area.