



2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

I. Taxes/Fiscal Responsibility

A. What is the issue?

Higher taxes and proposed tax increases on businesses and individuals discourage business development and growth. Higher taxes stymie individuals' incentive to improve themselves.

B. The Chamber's Action Plan:

1. Local

- i.** Advocate to keep property taxes low.
- ii.** Lobby local elected officials to be fiscally responsible.

2. State

- i.** Support Minnesota Chamber work.
- ii.** Lobby state elected officials for no new tax increases as Minnesota is one of the highest tax states.

3. Federal

- i.** Support permanent extension of the AMT.
- ii.** Support repeal of the estate tax.

II. Energy/Environment and Natural Resources

A. What is the issue?

Reliable and sustainable sources of clean energy.

B. The Chamber's Action Plan:

1. Local

- i.** Support local development of renewable fuels.
- ii.** Advocate for continued development of wind energy.

2. State

- i.** Push for feasibility studies on the use of nuclear energy.
- ii.** Advocate for greater use of renewable energy alternatives throughout the state.

3. Federal

- i.** Lobby against greenhouse gas emissions legislation and regulations that negatively impacts the economy and business practices.
- ii.** Support nuclear energy

III. Workforce/Education

A. What is the issue?

Need a well trained educated workforce to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

B. The Chamber's Action Plan:

1. Local

- i.** Work with area school districts and workforce agencies on career awareness.
- ii.** Work with local education providers and business community regarding internships.

2. **State**
 - i. Continue to advocate for QComp for teachers.
 - ii. Work with state workforce agencies to promote relevant job training.
3. **Federal**
 - i. Oppose the Employee Free Choice Act
 - ii. Support business friendly immigration reform.

IV. Health

A. What is the issue?

Need level playing field to ensure that everybody has access to healthcare, yet everyone share equally in cost.

B. The Chamber's Action Plan:

1. **Local**
 - i. Work with local healthcare providers to help address issues.
2. **State**
 - i. Work with elected officials on healthcare issues that negatively impact local health providers.
3. **Federal**
 - i. Advocate against Government run nationalized healthcare.
 - ii. Retain HSA and cafeteria plan.

V. Economic Development

A. What is the issue?

Reinvest in our infrastructure to sustain our Economic Development efforts.

B. The Chamber's Action Plan:

1. **Local**
 - i. Collaborate with Fairmont EDA and Martin County EDA on recruiting and retention of businesses.
 - ii. Develop a career exploration booklet in collaboration with state and local partners.
2. **State**
 - i. Work with our state officials on initiative to entice businesses to our region.
 - ii. Advocate for continuation of pro-business JOBZ legislation.
 - iii. Streamline the Minnesota Pollution Control Association's regulatory process.
3. **Federal**
 - i. Continue encouraging membership to contact federal elected officials regarding business related legislation.
 - ii. Oppose the employee Free Choice Act.

VI. Free Enterprise

The Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce supports a Free Enterprise System where businesses and individuals are free to make their own economic choices.