

Skagit Business Alliance

2011 Legislative Priorities

The Skagit Business Alliance encourages the Washington State Legislature to pursue policies that support economic growth and job creation in Skagit County; refocus on the basic functions and spending priorities of state government; and balance our state budget without raising taxes, increasing fees or raiding dedicated state accounts.

Tax and Regulatory Reform

- Prevent new costs on business through increased or new taxes, licensing requirements or fees.
- Enact comprehensive workers' compensation reform to reduce or eliminate cost drivers that result in annual tax increases for Skagit County employers.
- Enact no further changes to the state's unemployment insurance system that will add additional costs to employers.
- Maintain existing tax incentives used by employers and recognize that their removal through sunsets or unanticipated revisions creates negative results to our state competitiveness and hampers economic opportunities.
- State and local government land use and environmental review processes should be streamlined to eliminate unnecessary administrative actions and the public and private expense of such actions, while ensuring that the environmental impacts of development will be carefully and thoroughly reviewed and mitigated.

Infrastructure System Improvement

- Ensure adequate investment for infrastructure needs in Skagit County that provide for a mobile and flexible work force with effective and timely transportation options.
- Secure permanent funding for our regional ferry system and maintain existing route schedules, including the often endangered International Anacortes to Sidney ferry run.
- Support the efforts of local and federal leaders to establish and fund a comprehensive Skagit County flood hazard management plan.

The Skagit Business Alliance is a coalition of representatives from the Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Anacortes, La Conner and Concrete Chambers of Commerce, the Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association (SICBA) and the North Puget Sound Association of Realtors (NPSAR).