

2010 State Legislative Agenda for Business

Energy and Environment

Alternative Energy & Conservation

The Chamber supports legislation implementing public policies that promote: (1) efforts to optimize energy efficiency that will lead to long-term conservation practices, (2) conversion to more environmental friendly forms of energy generation, including nuclear and clean coal technologies, (3) research and development of alternative energy sources such as bio-fuels, solar power, tidal energy and other renewable fuels produced by agronomic crops and new energy technologies, (4) energy and environmental issues that are sensitive to their short-term and long-term economic impact and that utilize proven and effective technology.

Monitor Water Council

The Chamber supports the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Council’s vision of managing water resources in a sustainable manner under Georgia’s regulated riparian and regulated reasonable use laws. Our common goal is to support the State and Region’s economy, to protect public health and natural resources and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens while preserving the private property rights of Georgia’s landowners and in consideration of the need to enhance resource augmentation and efficiency opportunities. The Chamber will monitor the progress of the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Council and the Regional Advisory Committees with the goal of sustainable Agricultural, Industrial and Municipal water use and water quality.

TAXES

Sales Tax Exemption on Energy Used for Manufacturing

The Chamber supports providing an exemption with respect to State (not local) sales and use tax for the cost of energy (natural or artificial gas, electricity, or any other energy) used directly in the production of manufactured goods.

Sales Tax Holidays

The Chamber supports providing a sales tax holiday at the beginning of the school year that would exempt sales tax on back-to-school items. The exemption would last at least four days. An additional sales tax holiday would exempt tax on energy efficient products for at least four days in 2010.

Health Care

Trauma Care

The Chamber supports an increase in the number and funding of level one and level two Trauma Care Centers in the State of Georgia, particularly in South Georgia. Further, the

Chamber believes the allocation of such funds should be made in accordance with the formula recently established by the Georgia Trauma Care Commission.

Clinic for the Working Uninsured

The Chamber supports public and private funding options for safety net clinics that provide access to health care for the working uninsured to ensure that present and future needs are met.

Civil Justice Reform

The Chamber supports monitoring and protecting the important legal and civil justice reforms that were adopted in 2005.

Wellness Statement

The Chamber supports the creation of insurance products that provide incentives to reward healthy lifestyles.

Education

The Chamber supports improvement strategies that link education and workforce development in a seamless manner, preparing a student for whatever future they might choose and ensuring the long-term viability of our local economy. The Chamber's goal is to build the best workforce and ensure our companies have the talent they need to stay competitive.

Transportation

The Chamber supports the development of a thoughtful strategy that will provide the needed funding to address transportation funding needs at both the state and local level. The funding solution strategy should provide increased, dedicated, and reliable long-term funding for transportation maintenance and improvements. The Chamber will continue to actively promote top priority projects identified in the City of Valdosta's Transportation Master Plan, as well as our long-standing support for the widening of State Road 133. The Chamber also supports repealing the pickup truck exemption regarding the use of safety belt