


# 2023 FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES



Opportunity lives here.

 425-248-4214

 @EconAllianceSC

 EconomicAllianceSC.org

RashmaA@EconomicAllianceSC.org



**Economic Alliance**  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY

# Federal Policy Priorities

As the Snohomish County regional chamber of commerce and associated development organization (ADO), the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County (EASC) brings together our businesses and community partners to advocate for a competitive business environment.

Our 2023 Federal Agenda is developed in collaboration with our business and community leaders, local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit leaders from across Snohomish County.

## Snohomish County

Opportunity lives here.

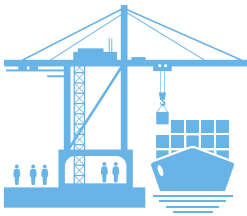
# \$55 billion

gross domestic product (GDP)  
produced in Snohomish County



# 5<sup>TH</sup>

largest port on the US West Coast  
based on customs export values



# 60%

of jobs are associated with  
**international trade**

# 15

higher education  
**institutions** fuel our  
innovation economy



# 56,838

manufacturing jobs  
in Snohomish County

# 50%

of all **aerospace** workers in Washington  
State are employed in Snohomish County

## Economic Prosperity

- Support for continued economic recovery, particularly for small and rural businesses still recovering from COVID-19 impacts.
- Support free and open global trade with strong U.S. leadership to increase economic prosperity, promote inward investment, and job creation.
  - Renew Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) laws to pursue new free trade agreements (e.g., UK, African continent, and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework).
  - Ensure strong IP protection abroad through IP-enabled trade policy to support innovation.
- Support investments in trade and export infrastructure to increase freight mobility and reduce supply chain challenges.
- Support and ensure investments in science, research and technology from the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 reflect community priorities for Snohomish County.
- Support restoration of the election for businesses to fully deduct their current-year R&D expenses.
- Support trade and defense competitiveness.
- Support continued growth of Navy assets to reach goals of expanded fleet at Naval Station Everett.

# Federal Policy Priorities

## Transportation and Infrastructure

- Ensure the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding and congressionally directed spending appropriations reflect community priorities for Snohomish County.
- Strengthen freight mobility by investing in and supporting the movement of goods along all modes of transportation including highways, railways, airways and waterways.
- Support federal funding for Westbound U.S. 2 Trestle bridge.
- Reform and streamline the federal permitting process for infrastructure, including transportation and broadband and energy projects to balance environmental protection, while accelerating project reviews to make the process cost-effective, predictable, and transparent.
- Support adoption of clean energy efforts through emerging technologies and programs to increase energy capacity and resiliency.
- Seek continued investment in light rail and Sound Transit.

## Broadband

- Support the Broadband Data Improvement Act, which revamps the broadband mapping process to allow for enhancements to target areas that need access to reliable broadband, particularly rural areas in Snohomish County.

## Workforce Talent

- Support immigration reform that will spur economic growth and address workforce shortages through policies such as:
  - Increasing the annual quotas for employment-based immigrant and nonimmigrant visas.
  - Expanding the scope of essential worker programs, specifically allowing employers to meet temporary labor needs in non-seasonal jobs and other industries (e.g. Construction, trucking and retail);
  - Creating new visa options for international students, entrepreneurs, and other high-demand workers to help employers meet their critical workforce needs.
- Support policies that strengthen STEM programs and workforce development at universities/colleges.
- Support appropriations that increase apprenticeship programs and provide training to in-demand careers.
- Support reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

## Childcare

- Expand and fund the Childcare for Working Families Act so low- and moderate-income families can have access to affordable childcare.
- Continue to provide support and creative solutions to help provide childcare that enables workforce development.

## Housing

- Support for investments in housing assistance programs and homelessness programs in the FY 2024 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill.
- Support for continuation of the National Low Income Housing Tax Credit and other similar programs to addressing housing issues for communities.

# Federal Policy Priorities

## Education

- Increase federal funding and support for k-12 school safety programs and needed capital infrastructure.
- Support federal funding for university/college programs across the State and in Snohomish County:
  - Support for funding of core WSU Everett and UW Bothell programs, research and infrastructure (e.g. NIH, HRSA, SAMHSA, CDC, USAID, AGR, DOE etc)
  - Engaging with Congress and the Administration to advance mental health care programs in rural and underserved communities.
  - Supporting federally funded research around bioproducts including sustainable aviation fuels, grid security, national security, materials science, smart manufacturing, nuclear waste cleanup, and hydrogen research.

## Military and Veteran Affairs

- Expand research and training opportunities through the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve veteran health and enhance military preparedness.
- Support efforts on housing assistance and childcare access for military families.
- Support efforts to facilitate employment for military spouses that eases inter-state restrictions in licensure.
- Implement a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program for childcare expenses of military families.
- Support federal initiatives that increase food security for our service members and their families.

## Healthcare

- Support federal investments in the health care workforce, biomedical research, community health centers and public health infrastructure.
- Support investment in behavioral health treatment centers and programs to address the mental health and opioid/fentanyl addiction crisis across the country and specifically in Snohomish County.

## Agribusiness

- Ensure the 2023 Farm Bill continues to support Washington's agricultural diversity and the state's economy.
  - Protects key agricultural interests while also expanding access to international markets.
  - Supports Food Security/assistance and farmland protection funding and conservation program funding.
  - Sustains funding for core research programs.

**Questions?** Contact **Rashma Agarwal, Director of Government Relations**, for more information on Economic Alliance Snohomish County's Federal Policy Priorities and how we can support your business.