

2024

LEGISLATIVE
POLICY
MANUAL



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Statement of Purpose

As the Snohomish County regional chamber of commerce and associate development organization (ADO), **Economic Alliance of Snohomish County (EASC)** brings together business and community partners to advocate for a competitive business environment. By working together across these policy areas, our collective voice is stronger.

Competitive Business Environment

A competitive state business climate that supports business-friendly policies to promote sustained economic recovery, resiliency, and job growth.

Taxation

Support efforts to improve and protect Washington's competitiveness and ability to attract, maintain and grow economic opportunities.

- Support efforts to improve and protect the predictability of the tax code and structural tax incentives.
- Support solutions to reduce the regulatory overload for businesses.
- Support tax policies that incentivize and promote manufacturing jobs.
- Support legislation allowing companies to retain a portion of the B&O tax for in-company training to enhance competitiveness.

Economic development

Strengthen the state's economic development ecosystem by:

- Increasing funding for associate development organizations (\$5 million/ fiscal year)
- Supporting efforts to increase funding for innovation programs.

Climate Change/Green Economy

Support legislation, programs, and funding to create jobs in the green economy, while maintaining a balanced approach that accounts for reasonable economic and regulatory considerations.

Energy

Ensure that policies do not create unnecessary duplication, avoids unintended consequences and limits unreasonable costs.

- Supporting efforts to increase funding for innovation programs.

Permitting

Support transparency and accountability for permit processing timelines to facilitate flexible construction practices across industries.

Rulemaking

Support streamlining and efficiency initiatives for greater predictability and ensure that changes and proposed updates take into consideration the economic impact more broadly.

Seaports

invest in trade and export infrastructure, including decarbonization, to increase freight mobility and reduce supply chain challenges.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Protect new investments in DEI outreach and assistance programs for equitable and inclusive statewide recovery, particularly for disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

Support State efforts to increase the manufacturing employment base, the number of small businesses, and the number of women and minority-owned businesses.

Workforce & Talent

Support workforce development and education solutions to ensure talent supply is relevant and valuable to Washington employers.

Support strategies, programs and funding that offer flexibility to communities to develop and connect talent with opportunities in the new workforce economy.

Support efforts to address immediate workforce needs and develop future pipeline in critical areas.

Education

Maintain investments in post-secondary education (technical colleges, colleges, community colleges and public 4-year universities) to produce highly-skilled and trades workforce.

Support WSU's operating budget request to establish a new major in Supply Chain Management to be delivered at both WSU Everett and WSU Vancouver.

- Support equitable access to dual credit and post-secondary pathways.
- Support investments in K-12 STEM learning to facilitate readiness for post-secondary options.
- Support investments in the K-12 curriculum that explore career pathways outside of post-secondary degrees.

Childcare

Support efforts with industry and businesses to develop strategies for developing a strong, safe, affordable and accessible childcare industry that supports Washington state families and enhances the future workforce.

Infrastructure

Support our region's share of infrastructure and transportation funding to modernize systems and ensure commitments are maintained.

Ensure infrastructure commitments made through statewide revenue packages, including Move Ahead Washington are honored.

- Expand state funding opportunities to assist with maintenance and operations of local infrastructure.

Transportation

Ensure funding remains and timeline is respected in recognition of the regional importance and vast needs of Snohomish County.

- Protect funding levels and timing of projects on Snohomish County's Regional Priority Projects list.

Collect transportation revenue in a way that is equitable and sustainable.

Preserve and maintain funds dedicated to public transit, including to support the conversion to zero emission vehicles and infrastructure.

Support investments and initiatives in rural broadband to increase access and reliability, and as means to enable digital equity.

Thriving Communities

Address community issues to build thriving communities in which people want to work, live and learn.

Housing Affordability and Supply

Support legislation that improves housing affordability, increases housing supply, and expands opportunities for housing at all income levels.

- Increase available workforce and attainable housing.

Public Safety

Support legislation that promotes safer communities for residents, visitors and businesses.

- Provide ongoing funding for communities to maintain and expand co-responder programs and support officer recruitment and retention programs.
- Support ever improving policies around law enforcement vehicular pursuits, with the goal of increasing safety for all.

Healthcare

Ensure choice in health care options, while safeguarding affordability and cost containment.

- Support efforts and funding on workforce development, recruitment, and retention to addressing severe challenges across all professions in healthcare.
- Behavioral Health – create greater access to community based behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities.

Make your voice heard in Olympia.

For more information on EASC's policy priorities and how we can support your business, contact:

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