

2010-2011 TEMPE CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Tempe Chamber of Commerce is a civic-minded business organization with more than 900 members representing more than 70,000 employees. The Chamber works to build a better environment for business and enhance the economic vitality of Tempe. For additional information, contact Mary Ann Miller, President/CEO at maryann@tempechamber.org or (480) 736-4280.

Tempe Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 28500, Tempe, AZ 85285-8500, www.tempechamber.org 480-967-7891



Your Success is Our Business

2011 FEDERAL AGENDA

Arizona is not alone in facing its greatest economic challenge since the Depression. Arizonans know all too well of the critical challenges we face as a state and a nation during this economic crisis.

Private sector job creation is critical to an economic turnaround. Both elected officials and administrators need to make policy decisions that will encourage, not inhibit, job growth.

HEALTH CARE:

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce supports meaningful, commonsense health care reform that will cure the problems in our system, not create new ones. We need to reduce health care costs, improve the quality of health care and expand access to health care. The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act expands coverage, but does nothing to reduce costs and improve quality. In fact, the many methods of financing the plan in the bill will only increase of cost of doing business and limit access.

We support changes to the Act that will achieve those goals without increased costs, taxes, fees, mandates, regulatory burdens and cost-shifts from government programs. We also support tort reform in the health system.

FEDERAL SPENDING:

In such critical financial times, the Tempe Chamber strongly advocates the importance of building upon strategic best practices to produce reasonable short-term solutions and long-term financial forecasting and aiding the structural deficit. The Tempe Chamber supports spending federal funds judiciously, recognizing that stimulus money will not alleviate the responsibility of remedying the funding crisis.

The Tempe Chamber supports fiscal policies that provide the opportunity to create and sustain businesses, allowing them to be successful and competitive in both national and global economies.

LABOR LAWS:

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce opposes legislative and administrative changes that would shorten the time frame for union elections and provide for electronic voting. The current rules create a level playing field for employees to hear both sides of issues.

The Tempe Chamber opposes any legislation that would hamper the employer/employee relationship or job creation.

TRANSPORTATION:

The Tempe Chamber supports the state receiving its equitable share of federal transportation dollars. The Chamber strongly supports efforts to restore the integrity of Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF), and opposes attempts to transfer HURF or other transportation funds for other uses in the future.

ENERGY and the ENVIRONMENT:

The Tempe Chamber supports an energy strategy that increases and diversifies energy supplies from both traditional and renewable sources; promotes energy efficiency across all sectors; modernizes and protects energy infrastructure; and reduces overly burdensome regulations that limit investment and imperil competitiveness.

The Tempe Chamber supports federal policies on energy and the environment that keeps our nation a competitive business location in the global economy.

IMMIGRATION:

The Tempe Chamber supports federal policy to properly seal our porous borders, respond to the labor needs of the economy, and address the issues of illegal immigrants already living in the U.S.

We support comprehensive immigration policy reform that:

- First and foremost, strengthens border security. From guarding the physical border to better tracking of expired visas, we must stem the tide of illegal immigration.
- Creates a secure, reliable system for employers to verify the legal work eligibility of employees. Employers need a federally based, user-friendly, low-cost, non-discriminatory method to ensure they are complying in good faith with the law.
- Establishes a market-based immigration process to support a wide range of workforce needs and to respond quickly to the employment demands of US businesses. Legal international workers play an integral part in the US economy.
- Develops criteria and establishes a guest worker/visa program for illegal immigrants already in the US with no other criminal record, which is based on strictly enforced criteria, including payment of penalties. Productive, integrated members of our society should be given an opportunity to continue to add to our economy.
- Reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating, educating and providing health care for individuals in the country illegally. The Federal Government should take responsibility for the breakdowns in federal immigration policy.

TRADE:

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce supports a welcoming approach to global trade, capital, and talent that are fundamental to a successful free enterprise system. Expanding our exports and advocating open markets at home and abroad is critical to this approach. American free enterprise has done more than any system ever devised to create jobs, opportunities, and hope.

1099 FILING:

The Tempe Chamber supports repeal of Section 9006 of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which expands the requirements for the filing of 1099s, and increases the burden on business.

REGULATORY REFORM:

The Tempe Chamber opposes new government regulations that would impede business innovation or efficiency. The Chamber supports requiring careful cost-benefit analyses by federal agencies before enacting new regulations that add costs to business.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

The Tempe Chamber supports legislation to help Arizona and other states resolve the temporary strain placed on its state unemployment insurance trust fund by extending the interest-free period on loans from the U.S. Department of Labor and waiving Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) penalties.