



## **2010 Federal Agenda**

Arizona is facing its greatest economic challenge since the Depression.

Arizonans know all too well of the critical challenges that we face as a state and a nation during this economic crisis.

Our Congressional delegation's advocacy and efforts will have a lasting impact on the history of our great state, both short term and long term. This year in particular, Congress will have to tackle significant issues, such as health care reform, immigration, finance, transportation and the ongoing federal spending.

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce has listed in order of priority the issues that are of immediate concern to its membership. We believe that the solution to this crisis rests in making decisions that result in job creation.

### **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. The devil is in the details.

The business community shares the goals of Congress and the Administration to reduce health care costs, improve the quality of health care and expand access to health care and is committed to finding ways to reach these goals. The Chamber also supports tort reform in the health system

The Chamber opposes any proposals that will threaten already struggling businesses with increased costs, taxes, fees, mandates, regulatory burdens and cost-shifts from government programs.

#### **CURBING 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 advises that federal funds be spent 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 urges Arizona's delegation to join Arizona businesses in opposing the card check legislation so that we can preserve employee's privacy and maintain a competitive business environment that fosters economy recovery and growth.

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

**ONGOING TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS:** Arizona's delegation should advance measures to advocate for Arizona's equitable share of federal transportation dollars. We will strongly support any efforts to restore the integrity of Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) and maintain vigilance in the prevention of attempts to transfer HURF or other transportation funds for other uses in the future. The Tempe Chamber will also continue to support policies and regulations that benefit Arizona and the West.

**ENERGY:** The Tempe Chamber's believes that America has a historic opportunity to marshal its unrivaled capabilities and resources to develop energy solutions that will keep our nation secure, our economy growing, and our environment clean. The Chamber urges the Arizona delegation to work together with Arizona's businesses to devise 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.

Federal policies related to climate change should keep our nation a competitive business location in the global economy.

## **IMMIGRATION:**

We support continued work on comprehensive immigration reform to better secure our borders as well as the creation of a new temporary worker program so that employers can hire migrant workers when U.S. workers are not available. The Tempe Chamber also agrees with the provision, under certain strict qualification criteria, of a reasonable pathway to legal status for undocumented workers currently in the United States.

## **CONSUMER FINANCE PROTECTION ACT /TRADE:**

The Chamber strongly urges its Congressional delegation to oppose the “Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009” because it fails to achieve the meaningful financial regulatory reform necessary to sustain vibrant capital markets and to fuel long-term economic growth and job creation. Some provisions in this bill will only magnify and exacerbate flaws within the existing regulatory structure and hamper the growth of the economy.

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.

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