

# Business *perspectives*

March 2017

...to strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economic development, community promotion and member programs and services.

## Voice of Douglas County Business is Vital to Legislative Success

It appears the 2017 Oregon legislative session may, once again, have adverse impacts on Oregon businesses and future job creation. The list of pre-session anti-business bills was long. However, unlike the past few sessions, the bills tricked in more slowly than the typical onslaught. The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Douglas County businesses have the unique opportunity to effect change during the 2017 legislative session. So, let the business voice be heard!

On the second and fourth Wednesdays throughout the session, the chamber will host conference calls with members of our delegation. This member-only benefit provides a venue to speak one-on-one with Senators Jeff Kruse and Floyd Prozanski and State Representatives David Brock-Smith, Dallas Heard and Cedric Hayden. These calls are an incredible opportunity to hear firsthand what's happening during the session in Salem, ask questions

*continue page 2*

## Shining a Light on Forest Health and Restoration

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's March membership meeting program will feature updates on community-based, grassroots efforts around forest health and restoration.

Communities for Healthy Forests board chair, Lee Paterson, will discuss the work the organization has been doing the past several years including a recent venture with the Umpqua Forestry Coalition on the Calf-Copeland restoration project.

Since 2004, Communities for Healthy Forests has focused efforts on educating the public on restoring and rehabilitating health to America's forests through effective forest management.

Communities for Healthy Forests has been working with the Umpqua Forestry Coalition for the past several years toward a similar goal—to restore fire resiliency and healthy forest conditions within the Umpqua National Forest. Also presenting at the March 13 luncheon will be Don Morrison from the Umpqua Forestry Coalition.

The chamber's March 13 membership meeting, sponsored by **Umpqua Training and Employment**, is from 11:30 am to 1:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Reservations are required. Cost for Roseburg Area Chamber members is \$20 per person or \$150 for a table of eight. Cost for any non-member business or the general public is \$30 per person. Tickets may be purchased [online here](#) or by sending payment with the flyer. Tickets are not sold at the door. Reservation deadline is noon of Friday, March 10.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday March 13

Membership Meeting,  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
"Forest Health & Restoration"  
Individual Member Attendee(s) \$20;  
Member Table (8) \$150;  
Non-Member Attendee(s) \$30

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### Tuesday, March 14

Business After Hours,  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
**Jordan Cove LNG** at  
Two Shy Brewing,  
1308 NW Park Street

## 2017 Board of Directors

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## Business Voice for Legislative Success

and voice our positions or concerns over proposed legislation.

Here is just a sampling of bills that the chamber is currently weighing in on:

### **RACC Supports:**

**SB 559—PERS** reform that would change the calculation of final average salary to use five years instead of three years.

**SB 560—PERS** reform that would redirect employee contributions from an IAP account to be used to pay for the member's pension or other retirement benefits.

**SB 984—Legislative** fix to reverse BOLI overtime rule by establishing rules for overtime pay at manufacturers who fall under both daily and weekly overtime statutes

### **RACC Opposes:**

**SB 165—Limits** small business tax cut passed during 2013 Legislature.

**SB 301—Would** prevent employers from firing employees based on employee's use of marijuana.

**SB 487/HB 2129—Would** increase damage awards in medical malpractice lawsuits.

**SB 557/HB 2468—Would** implement a "cap and trade" system for Oregon manufacturers that emit CO2.

**SB 828/HB 2193—Would** implement a predictive scheduling mandate.

**HB 2169—Would** limit award of attorney fees to employee who prevails on a claim against employer in wage and hour and employment cases. Current law allows for the awarding of attorney fees to the prevailing party, regardless of whether that is the employer or employee.

**HB 2180—Would** allow for liens against an employer's real and personal property by claimants alleging unpaid wages. The employee would not be required to prove the validity of their claim prior to filing the lien.

**HB 2181—Creates** rebuttable presumption against employer if employer takes certain adverse actions against employee within 90 days of employee's protected wage-related activity. Requires employer, after termination of employee, to provide to employee within 10 days of employee's written request, reason for termination of employee. Makes violation subject to punitive damages and provides right to jury trial.

**HB 2230—Would** implement a new 0.7% commercial activities tax on Oregon businesses.

**HB 2876—Would** add a new 13% tax rate for income above \$250,000; significant for small business as business income is typically taxed at the personal income tax rate.

**HB 3087—Would** expand family leave, affecting every business in Oregon regardless of number of employees. Over-reaching bill also contains tax provisions, thereby, requiring a 3/5 majority vote to pass.

**SJR 3 / HJR 1—Would** essentially repeal Ballot Measure 50, passed by Oregon voters.

For more information about chamber positions on issues, please see our 2017-18 Public Affairs and Legislative Agenda. The chamber agenda can be found as an addendum to this issue of Business Perspectives or on the home page of the Roseburg Area Chamber website. Our next conference call will be held on Wednesday, March 8. All teleconferences are held in the chamber conference room at 7:00 a.m. There will be additional details and reminders in upcoming membership emails.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**LEGISLATIVE CALLS**

**March 8 and March 22, 7:00 a.m.**

# **BUSINESS CALL TO ACTION!**

## **Testimony Needed Opposing Predictive Scheduling**

We now have reason to believe that Senate Bill 828 will be the primary legislative bill to mandate “predictive scheduling” on Oregon employers. There is also reason to believe it may now be the top labor priority for 2017.

Senate Bill 828, although it applies to all employers, focuses its most stringent regulations on restaurants, retailers, and hospitality businesses.

### **What you need to know on SB 828:**

It requires that an employer pays a minimum of four hours when (1) an employee calls into work but the employee does not work the shift in its entirety, or (2) when an employee is told with less than 24 hours’ notice that their upcoming shift is not needed or that the hours in the shift have been reduced.

Senate Bill 828 has much more stringent provisions for restaurants, hospitality establishments and retailers. It requires an interactive scheduling process in which an employer must accommodate employee scheduling requests. It also requires that schedules be set 14 days in advance. For any changes made to an employee’s schedule with fewer than 14 days’ notice, it requires one hour of additional pay per any change that does not result in a loss of hours worked, and it requires one-half rate of pay for any scheduling change that results in a loss of hours.

### **Predictive Scheduling Talking Points (SB 828)**

#### **Scheduling Mandates—Bad for Employees, Bad for Employers**

Proposals are currently floating in Oregon and in municipalities around the country that would require employers to provide employees with work schedules at least two weeks in advance, compensate workers if changes are made, and offer penalty wages if workers are called in at other than scheduled times. A primary goal of these bills is to help workers balance the demands of their jobs with family responsibilities. However, these mandates reduce flexibility for employers and employees—many of whom sought out their jobs for the flexibility they provided.

#### **Workers and employers should be able to deal with unexpected life events.**

Many workers report that they choose a job in retail or food service in order to have the flexibility to deal with anything from their own school schedules to the active lives of their children. But scheduling mandates make it difficult and expensive for employers to comply with last minute schedule change requests—even those requests that are due to a child’s illness or last minute opening for a badly needed medical appointment.

#### **New companies and their employees benefit from flexible hiring and need-based scheduling.**

Flexibility in scheduling workers is essential to starting or expanding a small business. The less time a business has operated, the harder it is to predict how customers will respond to products and promotions—and the less money the business has available to pay a penalty for calling in a worker when there’s unexpected demand. Scheduling mandates make it more difficult for businesses to access the workforce they need in order to grow.

#### **Employees and employers shouldn’t be penalized for bad weather.**

Severe weather already has an adverse impact on businesses because it suppresses demand and can impact inventory delivery. If businesses have to pay workers even when a store is closed or inaccessible to customers, they will take an additional financial hit. And for businesses built around outdoor recreation such as golf courses, outdoor swimming facilities or ski areas, the added costs could make it difficult to keep operating in bad years.

#### **Employees and employers should be able to adjust to changes in supply and demand**

Weather isn’t the only thing that can disrupt business operations. Demand is not always predictable, and for some businesses, it rarely is. A street closure, late delivery, or mechanical failure at a factory can quickly reduce sales and the need for workers. None of these things are within an employer’s control, yet scheduling mandates would create unfair penalties.

#### **Employers and employees should have a say in setting and changing their schedules**

Mandating predictability would make it more difficult for employers to collaborate with employees on flexible schedules. While some workers need as much certainty as possible in their work hours because of child care and other factors, there are also many workers who benefit from flexible schedules. A one-size-fits-all approach may help some workers, but it will hurt many others.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce will be submitting written testimony in opposition to SB 828. We ask that our members do the same within the next week. **Your voice has an impact!** Submit your comments on SB 828 to the Senate Committee on Workforce at: [swf.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:swf.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

## Got News?



### Oregon Door Names New Plant Manager

Keith Spencer has been named plant manager at Oregon Door. In his new position, he will be responsible for all manufacturing operations and contribute to overall company leadership.



### DRA Announces New Director

The Downtown Roseburg Association named Alyssa McConnel as its new executive. Alyssa started the position on February 21.

## Send Us Your Got News?

Has your business changed location or adding a new one? Celebrating an anniversary? Has your business added new staff? Have employees who have received recognition, awards or specialized training?

These are potentially newsworthy items for the chamber's Business Perspective "Got News?" an opportunity to share your news with fellow chamber members.

*\*The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to edit, verify, determine timeliness and publish on a space available basis.*

Find the  
"Got News?" form online at  
[www.RoseburgAreaChamber.org](http://www.RoseburgAreaChamber.org)  
or email your information to  
[sales@roseburgareachamber.org](mailto:sales@roseburgareachamber.org)

## Businesses Time To Mingle

Join us on Tuesday, March 14 for the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's first Business After Hours of 2017. Hosted by **Jordan Cove & Pacific Connector**, this great networking opportunity is an ideal way meet fellow business professionals in a casual setting. The event will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Two Shy Brewing located at 1308 NW Park Street in Roseburg. This premier business and professional networking event will be catered by Brix Grill paired with craft beer by Two Shy Brewing and an opportunity to enter a drawing to win some fantastic door prizes. The cost is \$3 per person, so mark your calendars.

Jordan  
Cove LNG<sup>SM</sup>

See You Tuesday, March 14

## Looking For a Few Good Greeters

Are you enthusiastic and outgoing? Do you enjoy meeting new people and making them feel at ease? Are you looking for a way to get more involved with chamber activities?

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for interested parties to serve on the greeters committee. Being part of the greeters committee is a fun way to interact with our local business community. It's a great opportunity for you and your business to show their support of the Roseburg Area Chamber, and for you to meet and build relationships with fellow chamber members. Interested parties should contact [sales@roseburgareachamber.org](mailto:sales@roseburgareachamber.org) or call (541) 672-2648 ext. 23 for more information and a committee application form.

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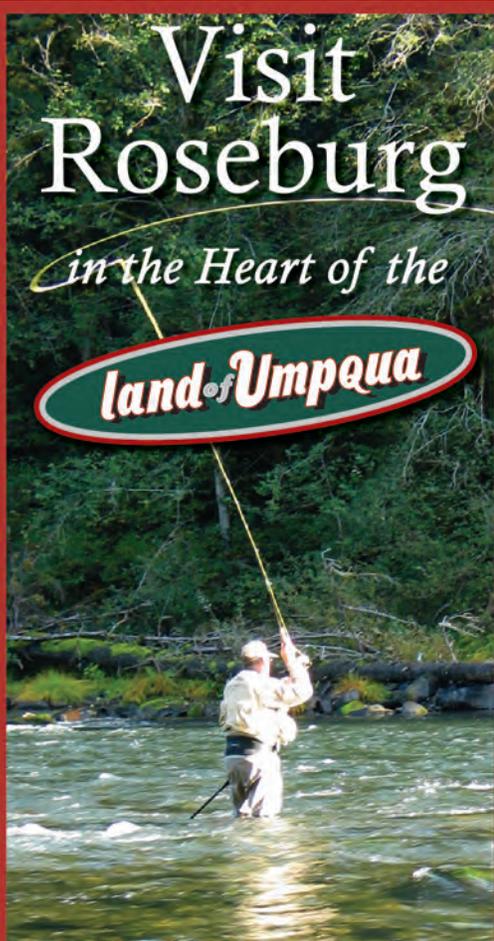
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## Meet New Members at Chamber 101

If you are new to the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce, or just need a refresher course about the wide range of benefits and opportunities available to you, please join us on March 23 for Chamber 101. This is a great opportunity for new members to meet chamber staff, meet other new and long-standing members, share information about their business and learn more about what the chamber does to support and protect business.

The Roseburg Area Chamber has long served as Douglas County's leader in advocating for business with government, helping improve the local economy and providing networking events. Your membership comes with many benefits and we are giving you the chance to learn how to take advantage of these while connecting with other new members.

On Thursday, March 23, from 8 to 9 a.m., the chamber will host the first Chamber 101 of 2017. The event will be held in the chamber's conference room and feature an overview of the chamber's vision and mission, goals, benefits, programs, activities and more. Interested parties should RSVP by Monday, March 20 to 541-672-2648, ext. 23 or email [sales@roseburgareachamber.org](mailto:sales@roseburgareachamber.org).



**ROSEBURG AREA**  
 Chamber of Commerce

**FiveStar Member Club**



**Community Cancer Center**  
**Gordon Wood Insurance & Financial Services, Inc**  
**Oregon Pacific Bank**  
**Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc.**

## New Members

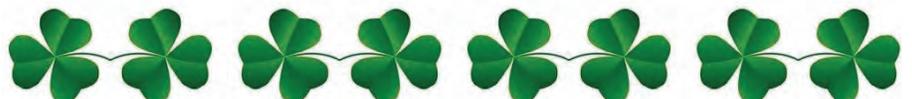
### Lookingglass Brewery

Mark Nunnelee  
 192 Main Street  
 Winston, OR 94796  
 (541) 378-8565  
[www.lookingglassbrewery.com](http://www.lookingglassbrewery.com)



#### *Brewery*

Lookingglass Brewery offers a wide variety of craft beer for just about any microbrew enthusiast. Located off of Main Street in Winston, the tap room provides a relaxed environment to enjoy watching the game, playing a round of darts, or shuffleboard. Fill your growler or just come in for a pint.



## Thank You Reinvesting Members

Abby's Legendary Pizza  
 AHM Brands  
 American Red Cross Blood Services  
 Associated Buyers, LLC  
 Bank of the Cascades  
 Bigfoot Beverages/Pepsi-Cola Bottling of Roseburg  
 Cascade Denture Center  
 CH2M  
 Community Cancer Center  
 DC Law  
 Douglas County District Attorney's Office  
 Douglas County Farm Bureau  
 Douglas Resident Training Facilities, Inc.  
 Family Tree Medical Clinic  
 Randolph Lee Garrison  
 Graphic Dimensions  
 K P I C - TV  
 McMenamin's Roseburg Station Pub & Brewery  
 Meadow Creek Retirement Community  
 NAPA/Roseburg Auto & Truck Supply  
 Neuner, Davidson, Cooley & Rapp, LLC  
 Oak Grove Retirement Center  
 Republican Party of Douglas County  
 Rodeo Steak House & Grill  
 Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.  
 Sizzler  
 Staples  
 Super 8 – Roseburg  
 Tyree Oil, Inc.  
 Windmill Inn of Roseburg



## CALENDAR

- 3/8 **Legislative Call\***--Members Only, 7 a.m.
- 3/9 **Project Leadership**--Medical & Human Services Workshop
- 3/13 **Membership Meeting**--Forest Health & Restoration, Fairgrounds, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 3/14 **Greeters Committee Meeting\***--Super 8 Conference Room, 8 a.m.
- 3/14 **Business After Hours**--Jordan Cove & Pacific Connector, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Two Shy Brewing
- 3/22 **Legislative Call\***--Members Only, 7 a.m.
- 3/23 **Chamber 101\***-- 8 a.m.
- 3/28 **Greeters Committee Meeting\***--Super 8 Conference Room, 8 a.m.

*\*Chamber Member Only Event/Activity. Official chamber meetings are held in the chamber conference room unless otherwise noted.*

## Economic Trends

	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2016	Jan 2016	Jan 2017
Total Employment, DC	41,113	TBD*	39,973	TBD*
Total Unemployment, DC	3,021	TBD*	3,859	TBD*
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	TBD*	8.6%	TBD*
City of Roseburg Building Permit Values				
Residential	\$212,390	\$933,480	\$282,750	\$1,090,831
Commercial/Public	\$368,496	\$313,470	\$1,025,244	\$14,564,240
Total	\$580,886	\$1,246,950	\$1,307,994	\$15,655,071
Relocation Requests Received				
	4	6	4	7
Lumber Composite Price (per 1000bf)				
	\$314	\$354	\$377	\$391
Structural Panel Composite Price (per 1000sf)				
	\$356	\$366	\$388	\$387

*Information compiled from various sources. Some figures may be preliminary estimates.  
\*Updated numbers will be published on March 8.*

## Business Perspectives Publication Deadline

*Business Perspectives* is an official publication of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce published monthly.



Chamber members are encouraged to submit items for publication. Copy deadline is the 10th of each month preceding the publication date. Information received after that date will be published subject to urgency and space availability.



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 Vol. 34 No. 3

## Business Member Spotlight

### Salud Restaurant & Brewery

**Brief Business History:** Salud Restaurant & Brewery opened its doors May 2014. They are located right in the newly renovated heart of downtown Roseburg. Based in the same building that has been in their families for over 25 years, they completed a total overhaul inside and out and after 4 months they were ready to open their doors.

**Marketing Niche:** Salud is one of a kind as it is the only Spanish fusion style restaurant and craft brewery in Oregon. They offer many delicious tapas and it is their way of making sure guests can share with one another and converse over great food. They also make craft beer and infuse many of the spirits that go into their hand crafted fresh cocktails. Salud takes the same approach to brewing as they do with their food in that they use flavorful fresh ingredients that are unparalleled.

**Business Philosophy:** Their philosophy is simple; to create an atmosphere that is lively, to have hospitable service, and to make the best most creative and fresh food possible. They believe that their customers will taste the difference between vendor bought and mass produced, and small batch in-house made. It's what they feel sets them apart from the rest.

**Why Salud Restaurant & Brewery joined the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce:** They joined the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce to be around other local like-minded businesses, who share a love of community, and who want to see Roseburg continue to grow and flourish.

*(Winners are selected each month from a random drawing of chamber members.)  
Congratulations to owners Many & Olivia Anaya of Salud Restaurant & Brewery.*

## Bay Area Travel Adventure Show Success

### *Vacation Planners Embrace Roseburg as Next Destination*

Eager vacation planners flocked to the Bay Area Travel & Adventure Show in Santa Clara, California, to discover new destinations to visit this past February. The annual travel show sees an average of 18,000 attendees and is an ideal event for the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce to promote Roseburg and the Land of Umpqua as a travel destination.

Highlighting the beautiful attractions, our exhibitor booth peaked attendee interest in visiting the Roseburg and the Land of Umpqua for their next getaway. Interest remained high during the two-day event and perspective visitors took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions about the area and gather materials to help plan their visit to the Land of Umpqua.

Inquisitive visitors were excited to see the variety of attractions throughout the year and lodging options available in the Land of Umpqua. Event goers expressed the greatest interest in outdoor recreation activities such as fishing, hiking and, as always, waterfalls. Our wine region was also recognized by a number of attendees from the recent advertising campaigns run by the chamber in popular magazines.

The two-day show provides an excellent opportunity to promote Roseburg, the heart of the Land of Umpqua, face-to-face with individual vacationers and travel trade professionals.



**2017 – 2018**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS &**

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

## **MISSION AND PURPOSE**

The mission of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce through its government affairs activities and political advocacy is to represent and protect the interests of the Douglas County business community. To this end, the chamber monitors issues and activities of local, state and federal government and, when appropriate, takes positions of support or opposition on behalf of business. In further pursuit of the most business-friendly environment possible, the chamber will, solicit pro-business, chamber-friendly candidates to serve on commissions and run for public office. The RACC board of directors will endorse candidates for public office when it determines the mission of the chamber will be best served by said candidates election to office.

The chamber weighs in on a number of business issues. Our members should review RACC's monthly *Business Perspectives* e-newsletter and "Chamber News" emails for positions and "Calls to Action" on specific bills and legislation. The following are the general public affairs and legislative initiatives of most significant importance to the Roseburg Area Chamber in 2017-2018:

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES**

### **General**

- Foster a business-friendly, collaborative environment and open communications among and between RACC, its members and the business community and local government entities.
- Monitor, advocate and communicate about tax, license and fiscal policy issues that affect the RACC membership and the general business community.

### **County/City Specifics**

- *Transportation Infrastructure*  
Transportation infrastructure funding is critical to economic development in our community, and as such is a major priority of the RACC. We will research local transportation infrastructure proposals and projects and actively support those deemed beneficial to local business and commerce.
- *Economic Development*  
RACC will support local initiatives that facilitate economic growth and development for Douglas County. RACC will work cooperatively with community partners, local governments and other institutions and organizations to improve Roseburg and Douglas County's competitiveness in attracting new jobs and growing community investment. We will support local initiatives that reduce the costs of job creation. It is also our commitment to ensure home-grown businesses have no reason to look elsewhere when considering expansion and that prospective businesses will find Douglas County an unquestionable first choice. We must streamline our development process and ensure our standards for development are reasonable.
- *Budget Priorities/Fiscal Responsibility/Government Efficiency*  
RACC believes each local government entity should maintain a general objective that expenditures not increase at rates greater than population and inflation. Exceptions would be made conditionally for capital improvement projects needed for infrastructure. Taxes should be used equitably to provide services and programs that benefit economic growth and the health and welfare of citizens. All levels of local government must be prepared to prioritize their needs to prepare for a future that holds the potential for less state/federal financial support. Decision-making processes and policies should consider impact on private-sector job creation or private-sector job elimination.

# 2017-2018 Public Affairs & Legislative Agenda

- *Local Transient Lodge Tax*  
The RACC will continue to monitor the city's use of transient lodging tax dollars not distributed to the RACC under contract for visitor services to ensure compliance with Oregon law and best use of funds for the promotion of tourism and support of the hotel and hospitality industry. The RACC will monitor (advocating for its business members) any attempt to increase or change existing city transient lodging tax or create new countywide tax.

## City Specifics

- *Transportation System Development Charges (SDCs)*  
The RACC will monitor the city's transportation SDCs to ensure 2014 reduction remains in effect.
- *Other System Development Charges (SDCs)*  
The RACC will monitor and potentially weigh-in on the city's sewer, water, storm water and parks system development charges.
- *Urban Growth Boundary Expansion (UGB)*  
The RACC will continue to support UGB expansion as it relates to business, commercial and industrial growth and development.

## STATE LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES

By and through its professional staff, with the support of an active Government Affairs Team, RACC will promote and enhance mutually beneficial relations among its members, the business community and the Douglas County legislative delegation in order to address the following:

- *Natural Resources/Forest Management and Timber Harvest*  
RACC will advocate for and support increased timber production on state-held lands. As federal payments diminish and ultimately cease, the need for proper forest management that allows for harvest and reforestation is imperative to the economic growth and sustainability of our community. RACC will work with local, state and federal officials and entities, business and timber-industry leaders to demand implementation of an active management plan by the BLM.
- *Employment*  
RACC would support legislation to remove the 10-hour daily overtime statute for manufacturers ; RACC supports a flexible weekly overtime standard, mandating overtime payment for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week. RACC opposes inflexible daily overtime requirements and BOLI rule revision mandates potentially resulting in double overtime pay for the same hour(s) worked.

RACC supports permanent statewide preemption of local employment regulations, supports legislation allowing employers and employees flexibility in scheduling work hours, meals and rest break periods. RACC opposes predictive scheduling mandates.

RACC continues to oppose legislation increasing Oregon OSHA penalties and potential legislation mandating a blanket ergonomic standard for Oregon employers.

RACC will support legislation reforming key elements of Oregon’s family leave law so it is in alignment with federal regulations. RACC opposes any attempts to expand mandated paid or unpaid leave and mandated paid family-leave legislation, paid for either by employee or employer.

RACC continues to support legislation that would strengthen provisions for denial of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits for workplace misconduct. RACC opposes any legislation expanding the use of UI benefits beyond intended use, including legislative “sweeps” of UI funds or UI funds for striking workers, employees on family or medical leave and/or for job training purposes.

RACC supports the right of employers to require blanket post-accident/injury drug testing. RACC continues to back legislation that would support an employer’s right to apply and enforce zero-tolerance workplace drug and alcohol policies. RACC has long-standing opposition to any legislation that would weaken or undermine the Oregon Supreme Court’s decision in *Emerald Steel v. BOLI* or any attempt to circumvent federal marijuana laws burdening employers and/or putting Oregon employees at greater risk.

RACC opposes any legislation that would expand employer liability through new and/or expanded protected classes, including but not limited to family caregivers, RACC would support legislation protecting confidential investigation materials in personnel files from inspection by employee.

RACC actively opposed the state minimum wage increases passed during Oregon’s 2016 legislative session, RACC continues to believe it is burdensome to Oregon employers and adverse to job creation. RACC will continue to advocate for remedies, especially for rural Oregon communities. RACC continues to support creation of a youth employment plan for 16-18 year olds or a “training stipend,” among other potential proposals.

RACC opposes legislation that would expand prevailing wage law, especially to private construction, because of potential damage to the economy and job creation.

- *Transportation Infrastructure Funding*

RACC will consider and support proposals that increase state funding allocations for road infrastructure, as there is a significant funding gap for road infrastructure needs across the state. RACC will support and aggressively advocate for funding for current and future transportation and related infrastructure projects deemed important to business and commerce. Support for transportation package funding is contingent upon sunset of low carbon fuel standards. RACC would support legislation reforming ODOT’s permitting procedures for access to state highways.

- *Workforce Development*

RACC will support initiatives that positively influence the quality of our workforce. These include initiatives to retrain dislocated and existing workers to improve job skills; fund local business and industry seeking to expand workforce through training; programs focused on preparing youth for the workforce with marketable skills that employers find desirable (including “soft skills”); identifying current and future needs of local business community and supporting a state and local workforce development system (including K-12 and higher ed) that meets those needs. RACC supports legislation targeted workforce investments in high-demand areas that generate high-wage career opportunities vital to economic development such as manufacturing.

# 2017-2018 Public Affairs & Legislative Agenda

- *Environment/Energy*

RACC supports legislation or policy suspending new or expanded environmental and energy regulatory programs and efforts to streamline existing programs. RACC is also supportive of legislation that would retain or expand the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC).

RACC would oppose legislation creating new layers of approvals/permitting with state EIS program and any legislation increasing maximum penalties imposed by Oregon DEQ. RACC would oppose any effort to remove sunset and make permanent 2009 legislation authorizing DEQ's adoption of severe carbon intensity standards and/or any legislation linking the state's procurement of goods and services to greenhouse gas production of materials, transportation and manufacturing. RACC would oppose any unnecessary air emission mandates.

- *Transient Lodging Tax Law*

RACC will oppose any attempt to repeal the state of Oregon's 2003 Transient Lodging Tax law, or legislation that would lessen percentages of TLT funds dedicated to visitor services and tourism promotion.

- *Tax Reform/State Budget Priorities/Fiscal Responsibility/Government Efficiency*

RACC support comprehensive tax reform. Any tax reform proposal must promote private-sector job creation.

The chamber continues to oppose any legislation proposing taxes and fees that unfairly targets Oregon business, specifically but, not limited to any tax on GROSS sales. RACC supports legislation reducing personal income tax rates applied to capital gains; business tax credits that promote economic development and job creation.

RACC supports the three-fifths (3/5) supermajority voting requirement for revenue raising legislation.

RACC supports PERS reform legislation that is fair, equitable and sustainable for all Oregonians, and that reduces costs to public employers.

The use of taxes should be fair and equitable in providing services and programs that benefit economic growth and the health and welfare of citizens. The RACC will support incentives to encourage government mergers and consolidations at all levels; eliminating duplication of services and performance audits to determine the effectiveness of programs. Spending decisions must be prioritized in order for sustainable tax relief. Key assets for economic growth, such as funding for roads and workforce education and training should be maintained and even enhanced where private sector economic activity will be bolstered. Decision-making processes and policies should consider impact on private-sector job creation or private-sector job elimination.

RACC supports maintenance of existing business tax credits, and expanding the eligibility of the 2013 small business tax cut; RACC opposes any legislation that would reduce or eliminate the small business tax cut passed in 2013. RACC would oppose corporate tax disclosure mandates.

- *Education Funding*  
RACC will continue to support educational programs and proposals (K-12 and higher ed) that will train the workforce to meet the current and future needs of our area's private sector. RACC will continue to advocate for stable and secure funding of Oregon's education system, believing PERS reform is imperative to the future stabilization of adequate funding. (See Workforce Development)
- *Health Care*  
The chamber would oppose legislation that would increase cost shift from public programs to private payers in order to cover the significant budget shortfall for the state of Oregon's Medicaid programs; legislation that would in any way change the way public employee health benefits are provided if it leads to additional cost shifting; or, any legislation proposing additional health care mandates not based on medical necessity.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES**

By and through its professional staff with the support of an organized and active Government Affairs Team, the RACC will promote and enhance mutually beneficial relations among its members, the business community and the Oregon Congressional Delegation in order to successfully advocate on behalf of the following:

- *Natural Resources/Forest Management and Timber Harvest*  
RACC will continue to advocate for effective forest management to include timber harvest on federal land. RACC will work with local, state and federal officials and entities, business and timber industry leaders toward the implementation of the BLM's desired alternative of the Western Oregon Plan Revision. As federal payments will diminish and ultimately cease, the need for proper forest management that allows for harvest is imperative to the economic growth and sustainability of our community. RACC will join community partners, local government and state officials in support of effective forest management to ensure increased harvest for economic health.

Additionally, RACC will continue to support local efforts to effect changes in federal administrative rules to require prompt assessment, fuels reduction and restoration of forests on federal lands after a fire or other catastrophic event. The RACC will oppose proposed federal legislation or administrative rules that would adversely affect the development and growth of our region's biomass energy industry.

- *Transportation Infrastructure / Highway Trust Fund*  
To facilitate the development and funding of critical transportation infrastructure priorities, RACC will promote partnerships among its members and the business community, local governments and ODOT. RACC joined chambers and business organizations across the country with the US Chamber of Commerce in support of long-term funding for the Highway Trust Fund. The five-year reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund came via the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act which passed both chambers, becoming law in 2016.

RACC asserts that our nation and state's transportation system is still in need of significant and long-term investment. RACC would support passage of small, phased-in increases of the federal gas tax, during a time when gas prices are relatively low. It is a good investment for business and

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citizens. However, RACC expects any increase would come with guarantees that the dollars would be invested wisely, for the intended purposes and on genuine transportation projects. RACC also supports permit streamlining of transportation projects for more timely and cost-effective projects.

- *Card Check (proposed as “The Employee Free Choice Act”)*  
RACC previously opposed the Employee Free Choice Act as it would eliminate the secret ballot used to determine if unions will represent employees in the workplace and could expose employees to coercion and intimidation. One-sided increases conflict with any sense of fairness or balance. The RACC has no position on whether unions are of benefit to employees or not; that decision is up to employees. While it is not an anticipated issue for 2017-18, the chamber’s position remains.
- *Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im)*  
RACC has long-standing support for long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. The reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank was signed into law by President Obama in December, 2015. The bank is reauthorized until September 2019.
- *Immigration Reform*  
RACC would support sensible, comprehensive federal immigration reform that 1) reforms the visa system for low and high-skilled workers, 2) creates a mandatory national worker verification system, 3) creates a path to legalization for the over 11 million undocumented workers currently in the U.S. and 4) secures the borders. RACC believes passage of such legislation is necessary to give the United States and U.S. businesses an immigration system necessary to remain competitive in the global economy. Our current immigration system is not serving the interests of our economy, our businesses, our workers or our security.
- *Health Care*  
RACC opposed passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which became law in 2010. As we continue to face the challenge of rising health care costs, RACC promotes effective private sector solutions and would support reforms needed to achieve lower costs, high-quality care and better health for our citizens.
- *Taxes*  
RACC would support comprehensive tax reform that would result in attracting investment, encourage innovation, foster economic growth and job creation and increase private-sector competitiveness in both national and international markets.
- *Legal & Regulatory Reform / Permit Streamlining*  
RACC has long advocated and will continue for permit streamlining from transportation projects to domestic manufacturing. RACC supports passage of the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017, which supports the mantra that federal regulations should be narrowly tailored, supported by credible data and impose the least burden possible, while implementing congressional intent. Cut the red tape.

Legal reform should include raising public awareness of the impact of lawsuit abuse on our economy; reform of the medical malpractice tort system to keep health care costs down; frivolous environmental litigation and, class action tort reform to lessen Class Action Fairness Act.



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