

Business Advocacy Positions

(Endorsement: York County Chamber Business Advocacy Council, April 2012)

Tax Policy

- Reduction of CNI - A large part of Pennsylvania's uncompetitive business climate is a Corporate Net Income Tax (CNI) rate at 9.99 percent, one of the nation's highest. The CNI rate, one of the easiest points of comparison for businesses, is also one of the state's most non-competitive.
- Establish a full single sales factor for CNI apportionment purposes, a CNI tax based only on sales - Because Pennsylvania includes property and payroll in the CNI apportionment formula—70 percent on sales, 15 percent on assets, 15 percent on payroll—our tax structure creates a higher tax liability for businesses with property and payroll in Pennsylvania.
- Given our high CNI, the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax (CSFT) makes Pennsylvania doubly unattractive for business. The continued phase-out of the CSFT is important to our business community. Continually freezing the phase-out and/or increasing the rate only makes Pennsylvania taxes unpredictable for businesses further compounding the burdensome business tax climate.
- Elimination of the Net Operating Loss (NOL) cap to benefit start-up companies and manufacturers – The NOL deductions permit corporations to offset losses against income. In Pennsylvania, a company may carry forward its NOLs up to 20 years, but the amount is capped to the higher of \$3 million or 12.5 percent of the loss.

Tort Reform

- To help advance Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) such as arbitration or mediation, to settle claims outside of the court system.
- To establish reasonable limits on non-economic damages.
- To promote “innocent sellers” protections.
- Elimination of “venue” shopping.

Transportation

- To support reauthorization of federal transportation funding bills in order to provide states with funding information so that PA can adequately plan.
- To re-evaluate PA transportation funding needs relative to current and future demands.
- To promote long-term strategic planning which will aid the planning and appropriations process.
- Transportation Funding: Support Governor Corbett's Transportation Funding Advisory Commission's Final Report and the Advisory Commission Recommended Funding Package. The Chamber supports the Funding Package in full and urges the Governor to strongly support the findings. While no one, including Chamber businesses wants to pay more, we get it. Our transportation system that we depend on is in poor condition and needs improvement. Failure to act will not help us and is unacceptable from a cost standpoint. Inaction costs more than action.

Specific to Route 30 Safety - Recommended priority action items:

- Add large, lighted overhead warning signs at each entrance to the signalized section.
- Add edge milling, both outside and median, to the divided sections.
- Add dense vegetation in the median in the east section, to slow vehicles heading toward oncoming traffic.
- Advocate for funding for increased enforcement through local police departments and existing programs such as the Center for Highway Safety.
- Pursue signal timing changes in the Signalized section to delay green side phases to allow intersections to clear and adjust for increasing traffic.
- Encourage regulation of signage adjacent to the highway through municipal zoning regulations and PennDOT permits.
- Pursue funding for an Intelligent Transportation System.
- Pursue legislation for the authorization of the use of red light violation cameras.
- Advocate for a comprehensive driver education system, with continuing education requirements, throughout the driver's life.

Education

- The York County Chamber has long been an advocate for changes to the funding formula based on growth in the school districts. More important than the dollars themselves, is enactment and continued application of a school funding formula to see distribution based on the actual number of students enrolled in the school district.

Health Care

The official position of the York County Chamber recommends a four-pronged approach to controlling health insurance costs:

1. Association Health Plans, which would allow small businesses to pool risk and access health coverage without regard to state boundaries and health plan dictates.
2. Medical Liability Reform and Medical Malpractice Reform, to place a cap on punitive and non-economic damages.
3. More Tax Credits to employers for offering healthcare options and increase current credits where feasible.
4. Health Savings Accounts, to provide tax deductible savings allowing employees to cover their own healthcare costs.

Labor and Workforce Issues

- Support Right to Work - The right to employment without the requirement that employees join or support a labor organization as a condition of employment, and support legislation that provides for employment without the requirement that employees join or support a labor organization as a condition of employment. (See also Right to work 2010.pdf)
- Repeal Prevailing Wage or increase threshold for application on prevailing wage - Market rate wages give states a competitive advantage over other states competing for the same capital projects and businesses. Additionally, taxpayer dollars get spread further and are better investments without the use of prevailing wage rates.
- Unemployment Compensation System costs are out of line with other states and the Chamber supports changes that will:
 - Bring fairness to our UC law and system.
 - Ensure that only workers with a legitimate attachment to the workforce receive benefits; reduce fraud and make PA consistent and competitive with other states.
 - Address fund solvency.

For Sustainable 3rd Class Cities

Pensions

- Authorize municipalities to offer an optional defined contribution plan and encourage municipalities to place all new hires into such a plan.
- Adopt/ensure appropriate actuarial principles.
- Incentivize/encourage the administration and management of plans by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS).
- Prohibit benefit enhancements unless the system is 90 percent funded.
- Adopt new benefit levels/rules/contributions/rates for all new hires.
- Prohibit including overtime and/or longevity in salary calculations (anti-spiking).

Binding Arbitration

- Consider a municipality's "ability to pay."
- Redefine an "impasse."
- Instill "last/best" offer as part of the arbitration process.
- Ensure neutrality of arbitrators.
- Institute a legitimate appeals process.
- Share the cost of arbitration.

Economic Development

- Create "Urban Redevelopment Areas."
- Expand the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) program to non-profit properties.
- Create a "Strategic Communities Partnership."
- Remove impediments to and support shared services.

Revenue Enhancement

- Recognize revenue sources and challenges as a real issue.
- Address revenues after other reforms are in place.