

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON BUSINESS COMMUNITY

2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITIES

I-5 BRIDGE — Ensure appropriation of funds in Washington State for the I-5 Columbia River Bridge while supporting Oregon and Federal efforts, analysis, funding and construction.

TIF FIX — Address technical issues with Tax Increment Financing and the definition of “real property” (RCW 39.114) to allow private construction on port-owned property.

PUBLIC SAFETY — Support a criminal justice training facility in southwest Washington and ensure law enforcement personnel have the regulatory backing to keep our citizens, workers, and businesses safe.

EMPLOYMENT LAWS — Resist unnecessary ergonomics laws in keeping with voter-approved Initiative 841 and avoid restrictive scheduling regulations. Repeal or reform the Long-Term Care payroll tax encouraging voluntary coverage instead of mandates and ensure Paid Family Medical Leave shortfalls are addressed with increased accountability.

ENERGY POLICY — Pursue resilient, diverse, and economically stable energy supply that protects the hydropower system and river commerce.

LAND USE & HOUSING — Avoid a patchwork of laws between local and state building codes while supporting greater certainty and timeliness in permitting. Support programs and policies that increase housing availability and affordability. Preserve and expand the use of industrial and mineral lands for their intended purposes.

TAXES — Carefully evaluate Tax Structure Work Group recommendations and impacts on communities and state competitiveness while ensuring the tax system functions as an integrated, rational system at all levels of government.

JOB CREATION — Provide additional options for local job creation, economic development, and infrastructure investment for border communities, rural areas, and opportunity zones. Protect targeted incentives to foster innovation clusters, support microchip development, and stimulate private investment.

CAREER READINESS — Support greater alignment between workforce needs and career and technical training programs to address labor shortages across industries. Ensure funding for Career Connected Training opportunities in high-demand sectors, support alternative pathways like trade schools, apprenticeships and the IT3 Technology Center.

EQUITY — Enhance diversity, equity and inclusion in state policy to address historical inequities.



www.credc.org



www.vancouverusa.com



www.iccbusiness.org

KEY INVESTMENTS

TRANSPORTATION — Promote projects in the Clark County Transportation Alliance 2023 Policy Statement to support our growing economy, employers, workforce, and population. Direct proposed carbon fees to transportation and infrastructure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT —

- Support Industrial Site Readiness for shovel-ready manufacturing sites (\$2.5M)
- Increase regional capacity to coordinate and deliver economic development services through the Associate Development Organization Innovation, Sustainability, Partnerships & Equity Fund (\$10M)
- Support the dock demolition phase of the Port of Vancouver Terminal 1 waterfront project (\$3.5M)

HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE — Support the following projects and programs:

- Cascadia Technical Academy campus modernization with pre-construction design (\$4M)
- Operational funding for the WSU Life Sciences Building (\$0.75M)
- Reaccreditation of the WSU Nursing Program (\$4.4M)
- WSU Public Health bachelor's degree program (\$2.6M)

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS — Facilitate infrastructure development through the following programs:

- Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)
- Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB)
- Public Works Trust Fund, Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)
- Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
- Broadband capacity initiatives



www.credc.org



www.vancouverusa.com



www.iccbusiness.org