



Durham Chamber of Commerce LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Local Priorities

ISSUE: SUPPORT ENHANCED WI-FI THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN DURHAM

ISSUE: SUPPORT S.T.A.C. RECOMMENDATIONS (local, state and federal issue)

- Support local/regional implementation of S.T.A.C recommendations.

ISSUE: SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS

- Support on-going efforts by public and private sector to streamline and improve the development review process in Durham.
- Support legislation to extend by two years the expiration date of any permit site plan or development related entitlement from the current expiration date as governed by local ordinance or state regulation.

ISSUE: PROPOSE STUDY TO URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support City/County policy requiring tax base impact analysis be conducted prior to any action being taken to remove a parcel from the inventory of property currently located within the existing Urban Growth boundaries.

ISSUE: SUPPORT ENHANCED PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

- The primary purpose of our efforts is to support local small businesses that will create the public benefit of enhancing Durham's local tax base and increasing employment opportunities for Durham residents.
- Would give businesses (City & Co. with corporate offices in Durham) opportunity to match low bid and be awarded if they can do so provided their bid is within 5% or \$10,000 of the low bid submitted by a non-resident.

ISSUE: SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

- Would apply to some services (to be defined) and all construction of \$500,000 or less.
- Program should target businesses with corporate offices in Durham City & County (could broaden to Durham MSA or CSA) and attempt to work with businesses within North Carolina before looking outside of state.
- Small business criteria to be used similar to EBOP except personal net worth increased to \$1,500,000.
- All current bid laws/practices would apply including EBOP.
- Would require certification to participate.
- Open to all firms who meet small business criteria.

2011

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ISSUE: SUPPORT A REASONABLE CONCEPT TO INCREASE BEER AND WINE TAX

- Currently, Durham County is well behind communities of similar size based on the amount surcharge for beer and wine taxes. At this time the amount of increase is unknown, but given it is within reason, the Durham Chamber of Commerce supports the idea to increase this annual tax levied on business owners.

ISSUE: SUPPORT LOCAL STREETSCAPES INITIATIVES

- Continue to support City efforts in expanding economic development opportunities for and around the Fayetteville Street corridor, Angier Street corridor, Driver Street corridor and Main Street corridor.

State Priorities

ISSUE: SUPPORT INCENTIVES AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT JOBS

ISSUE: SUPPORT NORTH CAROLINA'S RIGHT TO WORKS LAWS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYEES

ISSUE: SUPPORT THE 2011 EXPIRATION OF THE CORPORATE AND PERSONAL INCOME TAX SURCHARGES

ISSUE: MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THE EAST END CONNECTOR (TRIANGLE CONNECTOR)

- Ensure that the status of our top new freeway priority, the Triangle Connector to I-85, remains on track for right-of-way in 2011 and construction by 2014.

ISSUE: OPPOSE EFFORTS TO SEEK LEGISLATION TO LEVY A 1% PAYROLL TAX ON NON DURHAM RESIDENT WORKERS

- **Rationale:** Durham County is a regional employment center. Estimates indicate over 100,000 workers come into Durham County, primarily the RTP, earn salary, use infrastructure and never contribute personal or real estate taxes. Durham County proposes legislation to levy a 1% payroll tax would add to Durham County's revenue stream. In researching this issue, we have not seen any examples of counties using this method.

ISSUE: OPPOSE REAUTHORIZATION OF LOCAL REVENUE OPTIONS

- Oppose any legislation that would allow all counties to enact by resolution or, at the option of the Board of Commissioners, by voter referendum any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county.

2011

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ISSUE: MONITOR PROPOSED FALLS LAKE RULES AND POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Monitor the proposed Falls Lake Rules to support the consensus agreement reached by Durham and Wake Counties; support a detailed analysis to determine the feasibility of new development in Durham County complying with the proposed Falls Lake Rules in order to accommodate current population and employment projections.
- Push for legislation that would require a fiscal impact analysis as part of any rule making process; legislation should be retroactive to any rules within the past four years.

ISSUE: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Support maintaining funding for Smart Start, North Carolina's Early Childhood initiative.
- Support maintaining funding for child care subsidy programs to enable employees to go to work or look for work.

ISSUE: SUPPORT FUNDING FOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Maintain funding for statewide regional economic development partnerships.
- Support funding for Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP), an important partner in the job growth and development in the Triangle region.

ISSUE: SUPPORT ENROLLMENT GROWTH FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Continue to keep education as a top priority for North Carolina by maintaining current allocations for job training and skill development.

Federal Priorities

ISSUE: CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN INVESTMENTS IN COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

- Ensure that adequate research dollars are available for local colleges and universities while maintaining current research and development resources for these institutions.

Endorsed by the Chamber's Executive Committee on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, chaired by John D. Messick, II.

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