



## 2016 Legislative FOCUS



The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce is the area's largest business advocacy organization representing approximately 1,000 businesses and more than 30,000 employees. John Cooper with Capital Link Consultants serves as the Chamber's legislative agent and strategist and actively promotes our legislative priorities during the state and federal sessions.

### Public Policy Positions

#### TOP PRIORITY

**Nuclear Power Facility:** *Supports* lifting the nuclear moratorium ban on the construction of a nuclear facility that would include requiring that it be constructed on a site previously used for the manufacture and / or processing of nuclear products.

#### BUDGET

*Advocates* that the 2016 General Assembly pass a Budget as mandated by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and that this budget be structurally balanced with legislative changes that remove obstacles to business investment in the state.

#### EDUCATION

- **Post Secondary Funding:** *Supports* the proposal from the post-secondary institutions and Council on Post-Secondary Education to look for potential ways to restore one-half of the funding that has been cut from state appropriations since 2008 for these institutions. Realizing there are significant other funding needs and priorities including the state public pension crisis and Medicaid, we *encourage* our legislators to consider as a third priority, the restored funding for our post-secondary institutions. These institutions are economic drivers in our communities and state as they educate our current and future workforce.

#### TAX

- **Local Option Sales Tax:** *Supports* an amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky that would allow ***cities and counties the choice, with voter approval, to enact a local sales tax with a sunset provision*** dedicated to the funding of transformational local projects.
- **Comprehensive Tax Reform:** *Encourages* the General Assembly to adopt those tax reforms that will have a positive impact on business growth and investment in the Commonwealth.
- **Inventory Tax:** *Supports* the repeal or phasing out of property tax on business inventory because of its negative impact on business growth in the Commonwealth.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES AND LABOR

- **Statewide Smoking Ban:** *Supports* enacting a comprehensive statewide smoking law that prohibits smoking in indoor work places and public places in order to reduce its negative impact on the health of the citizens of Kentucky and on the Commonwealth's economy.
- **Medical Liability Reform:** *Supports* the establishment of a medical review panel system for use in civil litigation relating to health care providers to reduce the filing of frivolous lawsuits.
- **Increase the Number of Healthcare Professionals:** *Supports* an innovative approach to increase the number of healthcare professionals in Kentucky, particularly in underserved regions.

- **Wellness Program:** *Supports* legislation that would encourage employers to implement wellness-based programs that would provide Kentucky with a healthier and more productive workforce and would enable their employees to live longer, healthier lives.
- **Prevailing Wage:** *Supports* the repeal of Kentucky’s mandatory prevailing wage law to make Kentucky’s economic and infrastructure development more competitive or at the minimum the elimination of the prevailing wage requirements for the construction of schools and other educational facilities.

## COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **DOE Paducah Site Cleanup:** *Requests* the State to support continued levelized annual cleanup funding, long-term contracts and reindustrialization of the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant site.
- **Clean Power Plan:** *Strongly opposes* the Environmental Protection Agency’s final rule the “Clean Power Plan” and *supports* the Commonwealth’s efforts to halt the implementation of this rule. The Clean Power Plan would negatively impact Kentucky’s economy and its citizens by making it more difficult to produce affordable and reliable electricity, driving up manufacturing costs, and forcing jobs outside the United States while stifling new job opportunities here at home.
- **Public Private Partnerships (P3s):** *Supports* comprehensive enabling legislation for the use of public – private partnerships for infrastructure projects at all levels of state and local governments, including transportation infrastructure projects.
- **Transportation Investment:** *Supports* legislation to ensure adequate and consistent long-term funding for transportation infrastructure at both the state and federal levels to aid in attracting new businesses and retaining existing businesses in the Commonwealth.
- **TVA In-Lieu-of-Tax Payments:** *Supports* amending KRS 96.895 to provide that a portion of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in-lieu-of-tax payments made to the Commonwealth and deposited into the General Fund be transferred to the Regional Development Agency Assistance Fund to be distributed among the fiscal court-designated local economic / industrial development authorities in those counties that contain TVA assets for economic development and job creation activities.
- **Patent Trolls:** *Supports* the passage of patent litigation reform at both the state and federal levels to protect businesses from patent troll abuse and frivolous lawsuits while balancing the need to protect patents.
- **Municipal Utilities:** *Supports* requiring that members appointed to municipal electric utility commissions be *customers* of the electric utility and that the city residence requirement be removed.

## Transportation Infrastructure Projects

1. **Inner Loop:** Improvements to KY 1286 (Friendship Road) from US 45 (Lone Oak Road) to KY 998 (Olivet Church Road) to US 60 (Hinkleville Road) to improve safety for travelers to the regional mall and retail, dining and hotel center as well as the new McCracken County High School (Six Year Plan Project 1-153.00).
2. **Improvements to the interchange at US 60 (Hinkleville Road) and I-24** to improve the geometry of the interchange and the flow of traffic along the US 60 corridor for this high traffic area for shopping, dining and hotels (Six Year Plan Project 1-154.00).
3. **Continuation of improving access to the Ohio River Triple Rail Megasite**, which features Ohio River frontage, service by three railroad companies and barge dock capability (Six Year Plan Project 1-8702.00).
4. **Continuation of study for Outer Loop**, a proposed new connector from US 45 just south of Paducah to US 60 west of I-24, to assist with the high volume of traffic generated by the construction of the recently consolidated McCracken County High School (Six Year Plan Project 1-310.00).
5. **US Highway 60 Improvements:** *Supports* the efforts of **Ballard County** for additional four-laning of US Hwy. 60 (from Stafford Road to Bethel Church Road to KY Hwy. 1154), providing easier accessibility between Ballard County and McCracken County from the west. These improvements will enable easier and safer traffic flow between the two counties and assist with economic development efforts (Six Year Plan Projects 1-115.00 and 1-115.10).