

Legislative Priorities

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce has adopted three state legislative priorities for the 2011 legislative session. The three statewide legislative priorities are:

Review and Reform Oil Tax Policy to Encourage New Oil Production

Concise and Predictable Permitting in Alaska's Coastal Zone
Create an Alaska Transportation Infrastructure (ATIF) That Will Invest in Alaska's Economy, Safety and Mobility

More than 70 State Chamber members considered over 33 proposals to develop the state and federal positions and priorities. In addition to these priorities, the State Chamber developed positions on a number of other critical issues facing the State of Alaska. The board ratified both the priorities and positions at a meeting Thursday, October 28, in Anchorage.

The legislative priorities will be delivered to the Governor and all sixty members of the State Legislature. "Legislative priorities brought forward are aimed at advocating for a competitive and attractive business climate in Alaska to spur investment and business growth," said Kip Knudson, Chair of the State Chamber. "More than ever, the State Chamber will take a lead role in advocating for a competitive business climate in Alaska and economic growth," Knudson said.

State Chamber members employ the vast majority of private sector workers. The State Chamber established its priorities and positions supported by concise action items needed to achieve each position. Alaska businesses are increasingly challenged by rising energy and logistics costs, burdensome state and federal regulations, lack of sufficient workforce, infrastructure deficiencies, and domestic and global competition. "The Alaska State Chamber is Determined to Improve our 'Dead Last Business Ranking' for Alaska," said Knudson.

The Alaska State Chamber is gravely concerned about the ability of the State of Alaska to continue to grow programs and services at a time when oil supply is dwindling dramatically. Our Legislative positions speak to the need to limit the growth of government programs. These positions and priorities encourage the State to find new streams of revenue to pay for any future expansion of government programs. Government services are an important source of funding for Alaskans businesses, as such a statewide sales and income tax would negatively affect all Alaskan

businesses. However, as government growth continues, Alaskans must prioritize the services they receive or be willing to fund them into the future.