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2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Prepared by the Broken Arrow
Chamber of Commerce

“Advocacy is a top priority of the Chamber and this agenda is key to helping support our local businesses and bring their voice to the table”.

- Mike Cooper
2019 Broken Arrow Chamber Board Chair

“As a local business owner myself, it is important to know the issues that affect businesses in our community and to make sure we are advocating on their behalf”.

- Jason Scarpa
2019 Broken Arrow Chamber Vice Chair



MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

The 2020 Legislative Agenda is formed by input from our members gathered through our Government Affairs Committee along with conversations with our membership throughout the year.

JENNIFER CONWAY


President and CEO of the Broken Arrow Chamber and EDC


MIKE COOPER

2019 Chamber Board Chair



4th Largest city in Oklahoma

 300+ Manufacturing Companies in Broken Arrow

 112,000 Population

\$\$\$ \$82,831 Median Income



2020 Legislative Deadlines

57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

2/3	Second Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature convenes
3/12	Deadline for Third Reading of a bill or joint resolution in the House of Origin
4/23	Deadline for Third Reading of a bill or joint resolution in the House opposite the House of Origin
5/29	Sine Die Adjournment (No Later Than 5:00 p.m.)

Did You Know?

The aviation and energy industries are the city's two largest manufacturing sectors, and even billionaire Warren Buffett owns a local company. FlightSafety International employs more than 600 people who engineer and manufacture high-tech flight simulators. L3Harris AMI, Cymstar, and CSI Aerospace also call Broken Arrow home.



ENERGY

Energy: Oklahoma is a major crude oil and natural gas producing state; almost two and a half times as much energy is produced in the state as is consumed there. Oklahoma exports the energy it doesn't use out of state, primarily as natural gas, petroleum, and electricity. All sources of energy are key economic drivers for Broken Arrow and all of Oklahoma. Protecting the rights of all energy sources, existing and emerging, and providing opportunity for continued expansion on the state and federal level is crucial for the health of the Oklahoma economy.

Eliminate Barriers to Greater Use of Natural Gas (Federal): The BA Chamber supports measures to reduce or eliminate barriers to greater use of American-produced natural gas, including CNG, LNG, GTL, and NGLs.

- Oklahoma is the 3rd largest producer of natural gas in the United States
- DOE action on this initiative has the potential to significantly increase our region's job creation in the production and manufacturing sectors



EDUCATION

Education: A strong education system in Oklahoma is the essential foundation to equip the workforce for tomorrow and to attract and retain residents and businesses to Broken Arrow. An investment in education is an investment in our workforce, which in turn is an investment in our businesses.

Support Pell Eligibility for Short-Term, Industry-Driven Training (Federal): The BA Chamber supports to expand Pell Grant eligibility to short-term, industry-driven training at post-secondary institutions.

Fund Public Education (State): The BA Chamber supports continued investment in funding education in the state.

- Multi-year plan to be a Top 10 state by 2025
- Investment in the development of a highly-skilled and well-educated workforce will make Oklahoma more competitive and elevate our state's reputation as a quality place to live, work, raise a family, and build a business.

Allow Increased Local Funding of Education (State): The BA Chamber supports legislation providing municipalities with the ability to supplement state education funding and target the unique priorities of their community.

Improve Teacher Recruitment and Retention (State): The BA Chamber supports the review/revision of policies/laws to improve the recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers.

Expand Concurrent Enrollment (State): The BA Chamber supports fully funding access for seniors in support of current law and expanding access and fully funding concurrent enrollment for high school juniors.

- They reduce the amount of time it takes to complete a degree at a post-secondary institution
- This means it also reduces cost and speed of entry to the workforce

Explore Four Year Public University Expansion in Tulsa Region (State): The BA Chamber supports to expand access in first and second year classes for high school students and residents to obtain a four-year degree from a public university in the Tulsa region to ensure we are keeping our talent here as they move from education to the workforce.



WORKFORCE

Workforce Development: The number one challenge facing the business community is the lack of skilled workforce at all levels. Without access to the employees they need, many businesses are being held back in achieving the growth in their markets that is available to them. The business community must partner with education and government to ensure a pipeline is established to build the workforce for today and tomorrow.

Workers' Compensation Reform (State): The BA Chamber calls for the legislature to protect the changes made with the workers' compensation reform package of 2013, which phased out the workers' compensation court and replaced it with an administrative system known as the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission.

Medical Marijuana & Employer Drug Testing (State): The BA Chamber supports legislation and enforcement of marijuana related laws, employee drug testing, and employer action, especially in safety related occupations. The rights of the employer to provide a safe workplace must be protected.

Support Training of Middle-Skill Workers (Federal): The BA Chamber supports efforts to meet current industry needs for middle-skill workers eligible for jobs that require training beyond high school. This includes:

- Funding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act at the level recommended by Congress as reauthorized in 2014
- Providing dedicated support for partnerships between the industry and those that provide post-secondary credentials
- Increased funding of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and expanding these programs to include apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities to expand alternative pathways to employment.





TRANSPORTATION

Transportation: With transportation needs being an important economic driver in our state, we support continued improvements and investment in our infrastructure, which will ensure Oklahoma remain competitive in attracting new businesses.

Enhanced Turnpike Access (State and Federal): The BA Chamber supports the collaborative effort underway among Broken Arrow, Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, and Oklahoma Department of Transportation to develop and implement a funding strategy to add turnpike access and adjacent roadway improvements. Specifically, we like to see a direct access for the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

- Population, employment, and traffic growth in Wagoner and Rogers Counties make it a necessity for greater access to the Muskogee and Will Rogers Turnpikes and will require future capacity expansion to the Will Rogers Turnpike between Tulsa and Claremore.
- While progress is being made to connect Flint Road to I-44 in Rogers County, improved access to the Muskogee Turnpike is necessary to
 - Provide more direct access to the Armed Forces Reserve Center
 - Enhance traffic flow
 - Improve public safety
 - Promote economic development

Improve Heavy Load Routes (State): In order to meet the needs of manufacturers in Broken Arrow, the Chamber will continue to engage with the Department of Transportation to ensure viable and safe heavy load routes are evaluated throughout northeastern Oklahoma.



HEALTH CARE

Stronger Health Care: A strong health care system is vital to economic growth. The healthcare industry not only provides jobs resulting an economic impact, but quality healthcare is key to attract and retain residents and new business.

Single Payer Health Care (Federal): BA Chamber opposes a single-payer government-run/public option or health care system with government mandates.

More Employer Driven Market Reforms (Federal): The BA Chamber supports market-driven health reforms as they have proven to be the best approach to reducing costs while promoting market stability, efficiency, wellness and quality of care.

Federal Health Care Reform (Federal): The BA Chamber encourages Congress to refrain from making any changes to the structure and financing of Medicaid that would lead to an increase in Oklahoma's uninsured rate and transfer federal risk and costs to Oklahoma taxpayers. They should remain open to innovations that decrease employer-sponsored and individual health insurance costs.

Full Medicaid Expansion (State): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports Medicaid Expansion that serves the largest number of uninsured Oklahomans in the most cost-effective, way while also providing the largest financial return to the State of Oklahoma.

- A \$12.5 billion economic engine statewide that employs more Oklahomans in primary jobs than any other private industry.



ECONOMY & TAXES

Oklahoma has an economy that continues to be ripe for growth - responsive government, low taxes, and affordable cost of living are key factors that provide an environment for business to grow and expand their workforce. The BACC encourages state and local governments to protect the economic environment so our businesses can continue to thrive.

Support Funding for Critical Economic Development Programs (Federal): The BA Chamber supports continued investment in targeted federal economic development funding for programs that have proven to be effective and beneficial to the Tulsa Region.

Expedite Arkansas River Corridor Development (Federal): The Broken Arrow Chamber supports efforts to expedite the implementation of the Arkansas River Corridor Project for river infrastructure improvements, as our ports are a key economic driver.

Extend American Indian Lands Tax Credit (Federal): The BA Chamber supports the long-term extension of the Federal American Indian Lands Tax Credit.

- The American Indian Lands Tax Credit is a key economic development tool for Oklahoma, allowing both the accelerated depreciation of investments made on former reservation land, and employment tax credits when employing tribal members or their spouses.
- Oklahoma has the largest percentage of American Indian population in the country, and more than two-thirds of the state qualifies for this incentive.

Increase Economic Incentives (State): The BA Chamber supports continued tax credits, exemptions, and incentives that provide an economic return to the state of Oklahoma, which will maintain our competitiveness in business attraction and retention, and increase capital investment. The incentives which are critical to our states competitiveness include:

- Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit
- All Quality Jobs Programs
- Quality Events Program
- Film Enhancement Rebate
- Automotive Engineering Tax Credit
- Small Business Incubator Tenant Credit
- Oklahoma Seed Capital Fund
- Opportunity Zones

Municipal Funding Diversification (State): The BA Chamber supports legislation that removes barriers to allow municipalities to reduce costs, operate efficiently, and diversify sources of revenue available for operating revenue. Key initiatives include:

- Diversifying revenue for funding public safety agencies
- Streets and other infrastructure improvements
- Preserving and strengthening cities' authority to promote economic development activities within their borders

Modernizing Oklahoma's Alcohol Laws (State): The BA Chamber supports continued legislation that reforms Oklahoma's outdated alcohol laws with a focus on easing legal and regulatory burdens on restaurants, bars, event and sports venues, festivals, and other public events resulting from the elimination of low-point beer and the implementation of Oklahoma's new alcohol laws (Title 37A) in October 2018.