2016 Legislative Priorities
(Adopted 1/29/16)

The 2016 OSCC Legislative Priorities represents the legislative priorities of Oregon’s local business communities as represented by the 70 local Chambers of Commerce of the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce.

The OSCC is organized to give a voice to the local business communities throughout Oregon in support of policies that enable business growth, job growth and income growth in each of our local communities. We believe a healthy business climate, and the jobs that such a business climate creates, is the key to building up our local communities and making them prosperous.

The 2016 OSCC Legislative Agenda is a reflection of the major cost and regulatory challenges that local business will have to grapple with as a consequence of the 2015 legislative session, particularly those surrounding the mandatory paid sick leave law for local business.

For 2016, the OSCC requests that the Oregon legislature take immediate action to address Oregon’s transportation infrastructure needs. Legislation is also needed to address small business compliance concerns with the newly-passed mandatory paid sick leave law for local business.

The OSCC also asks that the Oregon Legislature “pause” on any additional measures that would impose new cost or regulatory challenges for local businesses. Local business communities across Oregon need time to deal with the new 2015 laws without additional costs, challenges and uncertainty from 2016 legislation.

The Members of the OSCC are united in support of:

1. HB 4012 appropriates lottery bond dollars for water storage infrastructure.
2. HB 4055 addresses Oregon’s transportation infrastructure needs.
3. HB 4077 reforms liability for ski areas.
4. HB 4078 creates a new Transit Expansion Fund to fund growing local transit needs.
5. HB 4084 allows for local tax incentive programs for brownfield cleanup.
6. SB 1565 allows local government to grant tax exemptions for up to $1mm in new industrial equipment.
7. SB 1581 makes paid sick leave compliance more reasonable for local business.

The Members of the OSCC are united in opposition to:

1. SB 1532 / SB 1592 / HB 4054 increases the state’s minimum wage to a level that small business can’t afford.
2. SB 1532 / SB 1592 / HB 4054 allows local government to pass higher minimum wage rates.
3. SB 1574 / HB 4068 imposes a new ‘Cap and Trade’ tax system for utilities and local manufacturers.
4. SB 1587 imposes new pay records requirements, private right of action, and new BOLI powers.
5. HB 4136 increases insurance costs for critical health care providers.