

# Business Advocacy



Working to Inform - Educate - Advocate

*We Mean Business*

## **Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce 2016 Annual Legislative Agenda**

*The items outlined within this document have been established pursuant to the parameters provided by the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce's (WRCC) Legislative Agenda Guiding Principles. The WRCC has committed to undertake these actions to the best of its abilities during 2016 in order to influence the legislative and/or regulatory environment in Wisconsin and actively promote a stronger, healthier business environment in the Wausau region and beyond.*

### **1. Regulatory Reform**

- Advocate against implementation of proposed mandatory overtime rules at federal level
- Support uniform application of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) throughout Wisconsin
- Support reforms related to workers compensation system
- Assist the "Red Tape Review" initiative by making it easier for our members to report burdensome regulations

### **2. Health Care**

- Hold bi-annual updates to build awareness within our membership about the health care system changes that have been and continue to be implemented at all levels of government and how those changes directly impact their businesses
- Oppose administrative rules which limit insurance companies and employers in developing opportunities to promote healthier lifestyles

### **3. Taxation & Government Spending**

- Encourage reasonable updates to recent adjustments to room tax processes
- Advocate for elimination of personal property tax
- Enable members to attend WMC Business Day in Madison to provide direct access to government officials
- Hold local legislative "Table Talk" roundtables to quickly address hot legislative topics with government officials

### **4. Workforce Development**

- Encourage development of legislation to authorize the creation of Regional Transit Authorities in the state
- Support SB228/AB314, also known as the "Brain Drain" bill, to help retain Wisconsin's top high school talent
- Support the continuation of the FastForward training grant program

### **5. Economic Development**

- Advocate for the ArtsWisconsin proposal to implement the Creative Economy Development Initiative
- Support legislation that will enhance regional economic development initiatives, including but not limited to: Wausau's riverfront redevelopment, Weston's Camp Phillips Corridor proposal, the Rib Mountain Drive developments, general municipal industrial park growth, and other similar initiatives.

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**6. Infrastructure & Transportation**

- Support legislation to provide fiscally-responsible broadband expansion
- Assist the Central Wisconsin Airport in its efforts to enhance air service for the region through an improved legislative and regulatory environment
- Engage in the development of the Wisconsin State Freight Plan to help actively develop a comprehensive plan to enhance multimodal freight mobility in the state.

**7. Energy & Environment**

- Inform and educate members about state and federal environmental regulations and how these regulations could potentially impact businesses in the region; examples of regulations may include the Clean Air Act, Climate Action Plan, EPA Global Warming Rule, EPA Ozone Rule, and the Clean Water Act, including the Waters of the United States rule and regulations involving phosphorus and nitrates in public waterways.

**8. Elections & Governance**

- Educate members about the various candidates running for local, state and federal offices
- Provide clarification on referendums included on regional ballots
- Hold annual educational training programs for prospective candidates for non-partisan local offices