Legislative Agenda

2019

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Greater North Dakota Chamber
Keeping North Dakota open for business.

As North Dakota’s premier business advocacy organization representing the interests of businesses of every size, in every sector, and in every corner of our state, this is not a slogan for us... *It’s our North Star.*

This year’s legislative agenda reflects our core principles to promote free enterprise and advocate for policies that enable, rather than inhibit, economic growth.

In developing this agenda, GNDC gathered input through targeted policy surveys and forums where GNDC members and business leaders shared their views. It was in listening to them that a clear consensus was found.

**North Dakota’s business community wants action to ensure our state’s business climate remains competitive, our workforce is fully developed, and investments are made to ensure our infrastructure supports and sustains business growth.**

GNDC responded to their wishes by creating policy committees to develop goals and objectives for each of these three areas. This agenda is the result of our work on their behalf.

North Dakota’s business community has spoken. Our focus now is to work with our state’s leaders to keep North Dakota open for business.

Sincerely,

Arik Spencer  
GNDC President & CEO

Matt Gardner  
GNDC Director of Government Affairs
Who We Are

The Greater North Dakota Chamber is the only organization in North Dakota representing all businesses across our state, from small one-or-two employee start-ups to large established corporations.

Founded originally as the Greater North Dakota Association in 1923 to attract new residents and tourists, our mission changed as North Dakota grew to focus on creating and advocating for a positive business environment. In 2004, we changed our name to the Greater North Dakota Chamber and rededicated ourselves to advancing policies that “keep North Dakota open for business.”

Our Vision: To ensure North Dakota’s business climate is the best in the nation.

Our Purpose: To promote free enterprise and advocate for policies that enable, rather than inhibit, economic growth.

Our Work: To amplify the voice of our 1,000 plus members before state and federal policymakers by advocating for an agenda focused on the issues and concerns of North Dakota’s business community.

Advocacy... By the Numbers

On average, GNDC spends…

• 1,864 hours per year researching issues
• 2,079 hours coordinating support from members, businesses, and the public
• 1,740 hours writing opinions, testimonies, newsletters, and fact sheets
• 1,280 hours presenting to and meeting with stakeholders, state and federal leaders

GNDC is a strong voice in advocating for pro-business tax policy, reducing the cost of doing business in North Dakota, common sense regulation, workforce development, infrastructure investment, and free trade.
Primary Goals:

• Further economic development efforts and a regulatory structure which improves North Dakota’s business climate.

• Ensure fair, equitable, consistent taxation for all businesses, which stimulates growth and investment, to make North Dakota regionally, nationally, and globally competitive.

• Maintain current labor-related laws and programs, which are favorable to new job creation.

General Policy Objectives:

• Support economic development programs and a taxation system, which positions North Dakota to be globally competitive, increases exports, grows primary industries, provides targeted incentives to encourage research and development, automation, innovation, new technology, and encourages entrepreneurial programs.

• Support legislation and efforts that reduce business costs – including health care costs and improves the legal and regulatory environment for business.

• Oppose unjustified fees on business.

• Ensure minimum wage and overtime laws track with federal requirements.

• Maintain North Dakota as a right to work state.

• Protect North Dakota’s current workers’ compensation system, which is regarded by many as the best in the nation.

• Maintain North Dakota’s current unemployment insurance laws, which provide adequate and temporary assistance to employees who become unemployed through no fault of their own.
Primary Goals:
Create a workforce development system that provides a pipeline of skilled employees in order to meet the needs of North Dakota businesses.

General Policy Objectives:

• Support collaborative efforts between private sector and public education to ensure greater responsiveness to the needs of our state’s business community.

• Seek to maximize the flexibility and responsiveness of K-12, two-year, and four-year educational institutions to meet local training needs and demands.

• Support lifelong learning opportunities designed to meet local business needs.

• Promote public policy solutions designed to enhance strengths and resolve weaknesses in the state’s workforce development system.
Primary Goals:
Promote infrastructure development that supports business growth.

General Policy Objectives:

- Support legislation and regulations that promote investment in North Dakota’s essential infrastructure: Transportation, energy, water, and communications.

- Support the matching of all federal funds for transportation and consider other funding sources to fill the gap left by rising costs and decreased federal funding to meet North Dakota’s transportation needs.

- Where appropriate, support further development of multimodal transportation facilities across the state.

- Support development and expansion of all energy sectors.

- Oppose new federal infrastructure mandates, which inhibit North Dakota’s ability to regulate infrastructure.
Our Members Make the Difference

The success of GNDC’s policy advocacy efforts depends on the active participation and leadership of our members.

GNDC’s policy development process is open to all our members. If you would like to participate, have an interest in one of the issues in this agenda, or would like to discuss a special issue of interest to you, please contact Matt Gardner, GNDC Director of Government Affairs, at 701-222-0929 or at matt@ndchamber.com.

Also, stay informed with our weekly legislative update, which will appear each Wednesday in Dakota Digest.

GNDC 2019 Legislative Advocacy Team

Arik Spencer – GNDC President & CEO
Matt Gardner – GNDC Director of Government Affairs

Arik Spencer  Matt Gardner
CONNECT WITH US

To learn more about GNDC or to join our organization, please contact GNDC Membership Services Director **Chris Kalash** at 701-222-0929 or at chris@ndchamber.com.