



2011 GUIDELINES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Background

1. The creation of jobs and wealth through expansions of existing companies and the attraction of new business activity to develop a diverse business environment is central to Colorado's long-term prosperity, protection against economic downturns, and maintaining a high quality-of-life. Quality-of-life begins with a well paying job.
2. An essential function of the Colorado General Assembly, as well as of the state's various economic development agencies, is to foster a positive business climate throughout the state wherein businesses can thrive, and to assist with local and regional economic development activities.
3. The Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce believes that economic development occurs best in a highly cooperative and supportive partnership between the public sector and the business community.
4. Key elements of economic development include: an excellent infrastructure (including transportation infrastructure), a superior educational system and workforce training, reasonable taxes and fees, an unobtrusive regulatory environment, and entrepreneurial opportunity and success.
5. Grand Junction is an important regional hub for multiple products and services which are major economic drivers in the local economy.
6. The Chamber recognizes that existing businesses form the state's present economic base. These businesses provide the existing jobs and tax base for local and state entities. They are also a source of new jobs – approximately 80 percent of future job growth comes from the expansion of existing businesses.
7. The Chamber is in a unique position to provide support for policies that encourage quality job opportunities and increased income in Mesa County.
8. Tourism provides a positive stimulus to the local economy.
9. Energy and mineral development are strong economic drivers in the regional economy.
10. Mesa County and the Western Slope are significant contributors to the State's overall economic well-being and budget.

Guideline Statement

The Chamber's economic development policy is also reflected in other specific Chamber policies: We support quality education, work force development efforts; encourage a predictable and rational tax structure; the removal of tax policy that discourages business investment; infrastructure improvements; and support for other laws, ordinances, and regulations that encourage private initiative, individual incentive, competitive enterprise, and which make our community competitive.

The Chamber supports:

1. A well-funded, cohesive, and aggressive economic development effort.
2. A regulatory climate that is balanced, consistent, and predictable, making it easier for businesses to grow and thrive in the state.
3. Programs, initiatives, tax incentives, and the elimination of disincentives in order to reduce the cost of doing business.
4. Initiatives and efforts that assist in creating a skilled labor force.
5. Allocation of adequate training dollars to enable local post-secondary educational institutions to meet the needs of business.
6. An expedited delivery mechanism for workforce training including the needs of a non English speaking workforce.
7. Provisions for appropriate assistance to local businesses in their retention and expansion efforts.
8. Efforts to promote Colorado as a tourism destination, as well as the provision of funding for tourism promotion.
9. Making venture capital funds available to new or expanding businesses through programs such as the Venture Capital Authority, especially for rural businesses.
10. Right-to-Work legislation.
11. Adequate public infrastructure to accommodate business.
12. Ongoing economic diversification efforts.
13. Adequate land use planning to accommodate projected business expansions in light of diminishing land available for commercial and industrial development.

14. Public/private partnerships that address economic development by promoting coordination between local government and economic development-related agencies.
15. Continued efforts to develop vibrant commercial and industrial areas around the Grand Valley.
16. Projects and attractions that enhance the role of Grand Junction as the regional center in Western Colorado.

The Chamber Opposes:

1. Government competition with private industry in the marketplace.
2. Fees that will put the community at a competitive disadvantage in attracting future economic development activities.