



# 2024 Legislative Affairs Priorities

## AIR QUALITY SUB COMMITTEE

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### Position Statement

The ChamberWest Chamber of Commerce recognizes that Air Quality is an ongoing issue which affects our quality of life, cost of business, and economic development. We also recognize that Utah must meet federal air quality standards which will be a substantial challenge requiring careful balancing of interests.

### Air Quality Priorities

- **Cleaner Vehicles:** ChamberWest recognizes that almost half of our air quality issues are related to emissions from mobile sources and supports efforts and incentives which encourage lower tail pipe emissions including:
  - The increased use of alternative fuel vehicles including high mileage, flex fuel, electric, hybrid, and natural gas vehicles
  - Transition of fleet vehicles to compressed natural gas and electric vehicles
  - Expansion of the natural gas fueling and electrical charging networks
  - Tax credits or incentives for EV/alternative fuel equipment conversion for heavy duty vehicles (class3+) and related charging/refueling infrastructure.
  - Idle free initiatives
  - Transportation funding to improve public transit, bicycle commuting, and minimize idling on Utah's highways
  - The introduction of Tier III ready vehicles
  - Tax credits or other incentives to encourage early, local production of Tier III low sulfur fuel
- **Alternative Forms of Transportation:** ChamberWest recognizes that communities that employ a strategic transportation plan that includes the support of walking, bicycling, public transit, and all forms of transportation are more attractive to residents and businesses while also reducing emissions, improving air quality and overall quality of life.
  - Transportation funding should include provisions to improve public transit, bicycle commuting, and other alternative forms of transportation wherever possible.
  - Telecommuting or Work from Home (WFH) while not a means of transportation, provides an alternative to transportation and should be supported as often as possible. WFH has become an attractive alternative for many employees and contributes to cleaner air by reducing travel. The Chamber supports businesses who provide WFH alternatives and appreciates government and business who support it wherever possible.
- **Regulation:** ChamberWest supports the collaborative efforts of the governor, legislature, and the Utah Division of Air Quality in the development of plans to satisfy the new and increasingly stringent regulations being implemented by the EPA for PM2.5 and Ozone pollution.
- **Innovation and Research:** ChamberWest supports investing in research and development at Utah's research universities and through industry-based initiatives to find Utah solutions to air quality issues. ChamberWest encourages business and government entities to be creative in their approach to keeping the air clean and lessening our impact on the environment. Education should be a key ingredient to promote innovation and research.

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- **Fire Management:** ChamberWest supports State Division of Wildlife Resources and local Fire Agencies in creating plans to minimize wild fire/forest fire damage along the Wasatch Front and Oquirrh Mountains. We believe this can be accomplished by:
  - Establishing effective fire ordinances and prevention plans to reduce urban interface on federal and state lands thus minimizing property damage and reducing the air pollution caused by fires.
  - Education efforts and ordinances to reduce firework use in forested areas and along the benches. Increased education regarding camp fire management.
  - Higher penalties for those who willfully start fires and do not properly extinguish them.
  - Encouraging the Federal, State, and local governments to take a more proactive stance regarding forest and wild fire management.
- **Renewable and Alternative Energy:** ChamberWest believes that renewable and alternative energy should be supported in all logical applications. ChamberWest encourages the state and national Departments of Energy to work with local power utilities to advance these energy options.

#### **Subcommittee Members**

Jordan Larson, Varex Imaging, Chair

Trish Hull, SL County Library – Kearns Branch

Alan Packard, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

Shule Bishop, Utah Transit Authority

Stephen Smith, Utah Inland Port Authority

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