



2024 Legislative Affairs Priorities

TAX POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Position Statement

Utah has a vibrant, stable, and highly regarded economy (partly due to the friendly tax/regulatory environment) and every effort should be made to maintain this successful system. Modifications or improvements to the tax or the regulatory system of the state should be carefully evaluated, minimally disruptive, and be based upon verifiable information and historical success.

With any proposed change, we encourage:

Participation – When changes are made, the business community should be heavily involved in the discussions so that both short-term and long-term implications can be clearly defined and considered in a transparent fashion. General consensus through collaborative communication promotes positive outcomes that foster strong relationships and high levels of compliance with tax laws. Chamber members will work to build strong partnerships with all government entities to our mutual benefit by accessing resources of the business community for information, trends, impacts, etc.

Consistency – Changes typically cost money, time, and training to implement. Consistency over time leads to increased value to customers, stronger tax revenues, and friendly relationships between government and business.

Equitability – All businesses should be treated in an equitable manner with consistent requirements. If economic/tax incentives are offered, they should be available to all businesses and fair represent fairness across industries or sectors of the economy.

Dependability – Services and infrastructure should be available and maintained on a consistent basis, so businesses can depend on operating in a safe business environment and reasonably make plans and projections to budget for future growth and improvements.

The health of our K-12, post-secondary education and skilled technical training systems and the health of our businesses are tied together. Education in each of these areas is critical to provide qualified workers for all businesses now and in the future. Ongoing and dynamic funding and support of a high-quality educational system is a priority.

With any proposed modification to tax policy, we recommend following these guidelines:

- Carefully consider the economic impact on both large and small businesses and consumers with any/all changes in the tax code;
- Give businesses reasonable time to prepare for and to implement any tax changes;
- Broaden the base and minimize exemptions;
- Encourage revenue neutrality to prevent tax increases;
- Minimize regressive impact on at-risk residents;
- Diversify by using multiple tax revenue sources and avoid earmarking;
- Give preference to stable tax sources with predictable revenue;
- Choose approaches that are simple and low cost in administration, collection, and enforcement;
- Use existing tax structures as much as possible without adding additional taxes.

Subcommittee Members

Trena Anderson, Deseret First Credit Union, Chair
Kory Holdaway, KMH Consulting & Government Affairs
Ron Bigelow
Rick Clasby, Utah Trucking Association
Jordan Larson, Varex Imaging

Bryan Scott, City Journals
Mark Thorne, CPA, Thorne and Associates
Stephen Smith, Utah Inland Port Authority
Steve Pluim, TalentTeam

ChamberWest

Empowering Local Business

3540 South 4000 West, Suite 240, West Valley City, UT 84120

801-977-8755 --- www.chamberwest.com

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