



**MONTANA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

MONTANA PROSPERITY PLAN

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Montana Chamber of Commerce is the state's leading business advocate and the driving force in promoting a favorable business climate. Montana needs changes that will bring better-paying careers to the state, strengthen small business, and promote sustainable prosperity for years to come. The Montana Chamber will focus its legislative efforts on the four core objectives of Envision 2026.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

In partnership with the Montana Infrastructure Coalition, the Montana Chamber will advocate for critical-need infrastructure by:

- Amending existing Montana statutes to enable infrastructure financing partnerships between private and public entities;
- Supporting appropriate bonding as a tool to fund infrastructure. Montana can still take advantage of reasonable interest rates to advance long-delayed critical projects;
- Restoring \$7.5 million of Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) dollars that were diverted during the November 2017 Special Session;
- Protecting the achievements of the 2017 Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Act, also known as the fuel tax.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Hiring and retaining a skilled workforce remains a top challenge for Montana businesses, and the Montana Chamber is committed to working with the legislature to pass creative policy solutions. You can count on us to:

- Support appropriations for career and technical education in Montana's K-12 school system;
- Expand applicability of Montana apprenticeship programs and other work-based learning opportunities;
- Encourage policy that will streamline collaboration between our educators and businesses to better prepare the workforce of tomorrow.



BUSINESS BASICS

The Montana Chamber was founded to promote a healthy, robust business climate. We will advance several proposals to make Montana a more attractive place to do business. These include:

- Developing a more competitive, balanced tax climate for Montana businesses based on research conducted by the State Tax Research Institute;
- Providing for transparency in contracts between private attorneys and state agencies;
- Ensuring that plaintiffs in civil lawsuits are filing their cases in the most appropriate jurisdiction, instead of “forum shopping”;
- Adding carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technology to Montana’s Renewable Portfolio Standard;
- Protecting the 2011 workers’ compensation rate-reduction achievements;
- Defending against proposals that will make it more difficult to do business in Montana from the perspective of taxation, legal environment, regulatory climate, and more.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Montana Chamber is committed to maintaining our state’s status as a national leader in entrepreneurship. By advancing productive legislation we can help Montanans start, grow, and keep their business here. We will:

- Promote incentives to encourage the next generation of Montana businesses;
- Support proposals that will eliminate barriers to entrepreneurial growth.



MONTANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
900 GIBBON STREET/ PO BOX 1730
HELENA, MONTANA 59624-1730
406.442.2405; MontanaChamber.com

CONTACT:

Bridger Mahlum, Government Relations Director
Bridger@MontanaChamber.com