

REPRESENTATIVE RUSTY GRILLS

REPUBLICAN, NEWBERN

You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?

I believe that the General Assembly promotes a strong business climate through legislation such as the changes of the franchise and excise tax code we have made over several years. The General Assembly passed the Tennessee Works Tax Act in 2023 and that legislation is now in full effect. The General Assembly also phased out the Hall Income Tax over many years, so that the Tennesseans would no longer pay taxes on investment income.

Please describe the business community within your district.

The business community in District 77 is heavily reliant on agriculture. In addition to the agricultural economy, there is a healthy manufacturing presence in the district. There is also a strong focus on growing our entertainment and tourism businesses.

What do you believe the economic development/pro-business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?

As conservative legislators, we should prioritize welcoming new businesses and encourage innovation. The Tennessee General Assembly has worked very hard to create a business-friendly environment, which, in turn, provides employment opportunities for our constituents. Personally, I believe we need to continue to look at scaling back outdate business regulations and look to make policy changes that can adapt to an ever-changing business landscape.

What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community should be?

Partnership is essential. It is very important for the business community and the Tennessee General Assembly work together to achieve positive outcomes for large and small businesses in Tennessee. The Legislature should always strive to address the needs of our business community, so that we can create a healthy economy for everyday Tennesseans.