

2009 Legislative Agenda



Education

Drugs: The use of drugs has a devastating impact on the workforce and the families of our community. In particular, the use of methamphetamine is the largest threat. We urge the support and funding of the Idaho Meth Project. (August 21, 2008)

Education: Education remains one of the foundation stones of business community. Reevaluation of the funding formula can provide much needed education to our youth and adult learners. Satellite facilities and courses are needed in outlying areas to provide education to working students wanting to improve their job skills or attain a higher level of education. (August 21, 2008)

Lake Pend Oreille School District Facilities Levy 2008

Lake Pend Oreille School District Supplemental Levy 2009 (January 22, 2009)

Workforce

Continued support for education, work development and affordable housing are key factors in having a good reliable skilled workforce. (August 21, 2008)

Natural Resources

Water Quality: The threat posed by invasive species, both plant and animal, to the quality of Lake Pend Oreille and the other Idaho bodies of water can have a long lasting effect on our economy and quality of life. We support efforts to protect this valuable resource. (August 21, 2008)

Natural Resource Management: Wise stewardship of the natural resources of our area is key to our historic job base and economic well being, as well as promoting habitat for local wildlife species, a continued flow of clean water, providing various recreational opportunities and preserving the natural beauty of the area. The loss of timber sale revenue and the expiration of the Craig Wyden Act have reduced the income to our county roads and schools by over \$1 million. We support sound and reliable management of our natural resources on both the federal and state land base in this area. (August 21, 2008)

Energy/Fuel Cost: Attention must be given to the control of rising energy costs and the ultimate exhaustion of current energy sources. We should work toward the development of additional petroleum sources, development of alternative energy sources and the conservation of energy. (August 21, 2008)

Transportation

Transportation: A sound transportation infrastructure is crucial to building and maintaining a strong economy. With current \$240 million funding short fall, it is imperative to seek a permanent solution and continue to repair and build the infrastructure.. In addition, the development of public transportation can reduce the demand on our road system and provide cheaper transportation options to the public. (August 21, 2008)

Local Issues

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection Districts are facing serious problems that are crippling fire protection service. The laws forbidding volunteer reimbursement for personal expenses, such as gasoline, has begun to seriously reduce the number of fire fighters available for a call. We urge the changing of these tax laws. Additionally, the cost of equipment and training is moving beyond the reach of the rural districts. We support the efforts to increase their funding. (August 21, 2008)

Windbag Marina (January 22, 2009)

Pend Oreille Trail

Sandpoint Comprehensive Plan (January 22, 2009)

Property Tax: Dramatically increasing property values are causing a severe strain on the property owners and businesses due to rapidly increasing property taxes. In some cases, long time home owners on a fixed income are being forced from their homes. We urge the adoption of equalizing measures through such vehicles as property tax reform and sales disclosure. (August 21, 2008)

Idaho Travel Council (January 22, 2009) Senate Bill S1081 which proposes changes to the Idaho Travel Council representation as well as the distribution of bed tax dollars through the annual grant program.