

2019

**FEDERAL
PRIORITY
AGENDA**

**GREATER
SPOKANE
inc.**

GREATER COMMUNITY

Together, we put the pieces in place to attract organizations, talent, and people with big dreams to create a vibrant community.



ENGAGEMENT

Investment, Communications, Partnerships, Events, Programming

WHAT WE DO

Gathered from leaders in business, education, health care, local and county governments and Fairchild Airforce Base, our 2019 Federal Priority Agenda vocalizes prioritized issues for our region. Based on feedback from a variety of constituencies, including our Board of Trustees, legislators and GSI's Public Policy Council, we heard a need to focus on a targeted list of priority business issues that both support GSI's mission as a business development organization and impact our region's ability to sustain a healthy business climate, so we broke out the 2019 Agenda into three parts: Drive, Partner and Support.

Issues that we **DRIVE** are our top priorities, which means we will drive dialogue, advocacy, tracking, testimony, messaging and a variety of other support, including letter generation, calls and in-person visits.

Issues that we **PARTNER** on are the issues being driven by other organizations that align directly with our mission for the business community. We will work with these organizations, providing tracking and messaging for community leaders engaging directly on these topics.

Issues that we **SUPPORT** are broadly defined as community issues. We care deeply about these issues and will continue to provide messaging and advocacy support when asked, taking direction from community members on needed support.

As the Spokane region's business development organization, GSI brings regional partners together to advocate for our community's priorities with a strong, unified voice. Together, we have a greater voice for the future of our region.



DRIVE

OUR TOP PRIORITIES

WE'RE TAKING THE LEAD IN THESE AREAS

TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support passage of an agreed-upon U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA).
- Relieve tariffs, especially with China, that affect strong trade partnerships with Washington State's agriculture and other industries.

WORKFORCE

- Fund and support Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Apprenticeship Programs (EARNS) to further develop work-based learning opportunities, dual enrollment programs and education/business collaboration programs, which support workforce development in the transportation, energy, construction and many other trades.
- Ensure federal and state alignment regarding exempt/non-exempt employee status when implementing new overtime rules.

HEALTH CARE/GME

- Update the Veterans Health Care Expansion Act to remove the restriction that VA may only reimburse an affiliate to cover the cost for the period of time that a resident serves in a VA medical facility.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Reauthorize the Higher Education Act, which addresses affordability of and access to higher learning.
- Reauthorize and expand programs that invest directly in students: Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants and Federal Work Study programs.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Increase grant funding for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants.

AVIATION

- Raise or eliminate the outdated federal cap on local Passenger Facility Charges and index for inflation. Increasing the PFC is integral to the Airport's Terminal Renovation & Expansion Project.

PARTNER

DRIVEN BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WE'RE WORKING WITH THEM

TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank (Ex-Im) and move to confirm the Ex-Im Bank board nominations in order to have the quorum it needs to approve loans above \$10 million.
- Continue to invest in Opportunity Zones, which encourage economic activity and job creation in low-income areas.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME)

- Reform the antiquated metrics currently used to calculate GME slots nationwide to expand and rebalance the GME program nationwide, particularly expand funding for residency programs in the critical areas of primary care, family medicine and mental health.
- Continue funding GME directly in line with support for reauthorization of HRSA funding.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- In a bi-partisan fashion, develop and fund a long-term federal infrastructure package to fund all modes of public works projects and develop innovative ways to build and maintain our nation's aging infrastructure.
- Provide \$23.9 million in federal dollars to fully fund an underpass at the Pines Road (SR 27)/BNSF at-grade railway crossing and improve the adjacent intersection of two state highways, Pines Road and Trent Avenue (SR 290). Secured funding sources include \$3.2 million from the City of Spokane Valley for engineering design and \$1.9 million of federal funds for right-of-way acquisition. This project is the highest-ranked unfunded road-rail project in Washington State.
- Provide \$35 million to fund transportation improvements along the North Sullivan Road Corridor. Continued growth in the region is projected to double the peak hour traffic volumes along the north limits of this corridor by 2022. These projects will be done in partnership with Spokane County and will improve traffic safety and the movement of people and goods throughout the shared regional network. Projects include the connection to Spokane County's Bigelow Gulch Road and a new interchange at WSDOT's Trent Avenue (SR 290).
- Support \$53.4 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) "Small Starts" grant to complete the project's funding plan and to begin implementation to open in 2021.
- Encourage Congress to provide full funding (\$3.35 billion) for the Airport Improvement Program in the FY20 transportation spending bill.

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE

- Support modernization of facilities and equipment through projects eligible for Military Construction (MILCON) funding as submitted by FAFB and the Air Mobility Command (AMC), including replacement of a critical redundant water line from Spokane to the base.
- Support FAFB's Community Partnership program by extending an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) for 10 years, creating a long-term partnership with law enforcement to develop an indoor shooting range where airmen and airwomen can train and qualify.
- Support training facilities for the largest tanker base in the U.S. and the Air Education Training Command (AETC) facilities required for the water survival program at FAFB.
- Provide certification exemptions for professional and military spouses to allow for easier entrance to the workforce when moving around the U.S.
- Support efforts to develop housing near FAFB, to house new FAFB crew moving to the area in support of the newest missions at FAFB.

ENERGY

- Ensure hydro power is recognized as a clean, renewable energy source while continuing to support and protect Northwest dams.
- Encourage Congress to work in a bi-partisan manner to invest in and support green energy solutions and preserve the value of clean, renewable and carbon-free hydro power as the U.S. pursues greener updates/alternatives for our power grid and transportation infrastructure.



SUPPORT

COMMUNITY
DRIVEN
ISSUES

WE'RE
PROVIDING
HELP WHERE
NEEDED

WORKFORCE

- Develop new and innovative ways to recruit and retain skilled employees in the transportation industry to ensure a highly skilled, safe workforce can deliver projects in a timely manner.
- Reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which strengthens our nation's public workforce system and helps get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

EARLY CHILDHOOD, PRE-K AND K-12

- Support the expansion and fund the Child Care for Working Families Act (CCFWFA), which creates a new child care entitlement program for low- and middle-income families based on Medicaid to provide high-quality, affordable child care from birth through age 13.
- Support increased funding of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- Support and fund STEM initiatives that provide access to degree completion.
- Provide full 40 percent match to appropriately fund students in Special Education programs.
- Support policies that advance safety at schools, including threat prevention programs, mental health services and capital infrastructure.
- Maintain robust funding for National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF). Both agencies are economic drivers and fundamental to innovation and developing human capital. Each STEM-focused agency has programs designed to increase undergraduate, graduate and first-generation student pathways.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Maintain affordable and accessible repayment options for students and simplify the student loan repayment plans.
- Support domestic policies that provide U.S.-educated graduates with post degrees (associates or baccalaureate) pathways to domestic employment opportunities, particularly in high-need fields.

HEALTH CARE

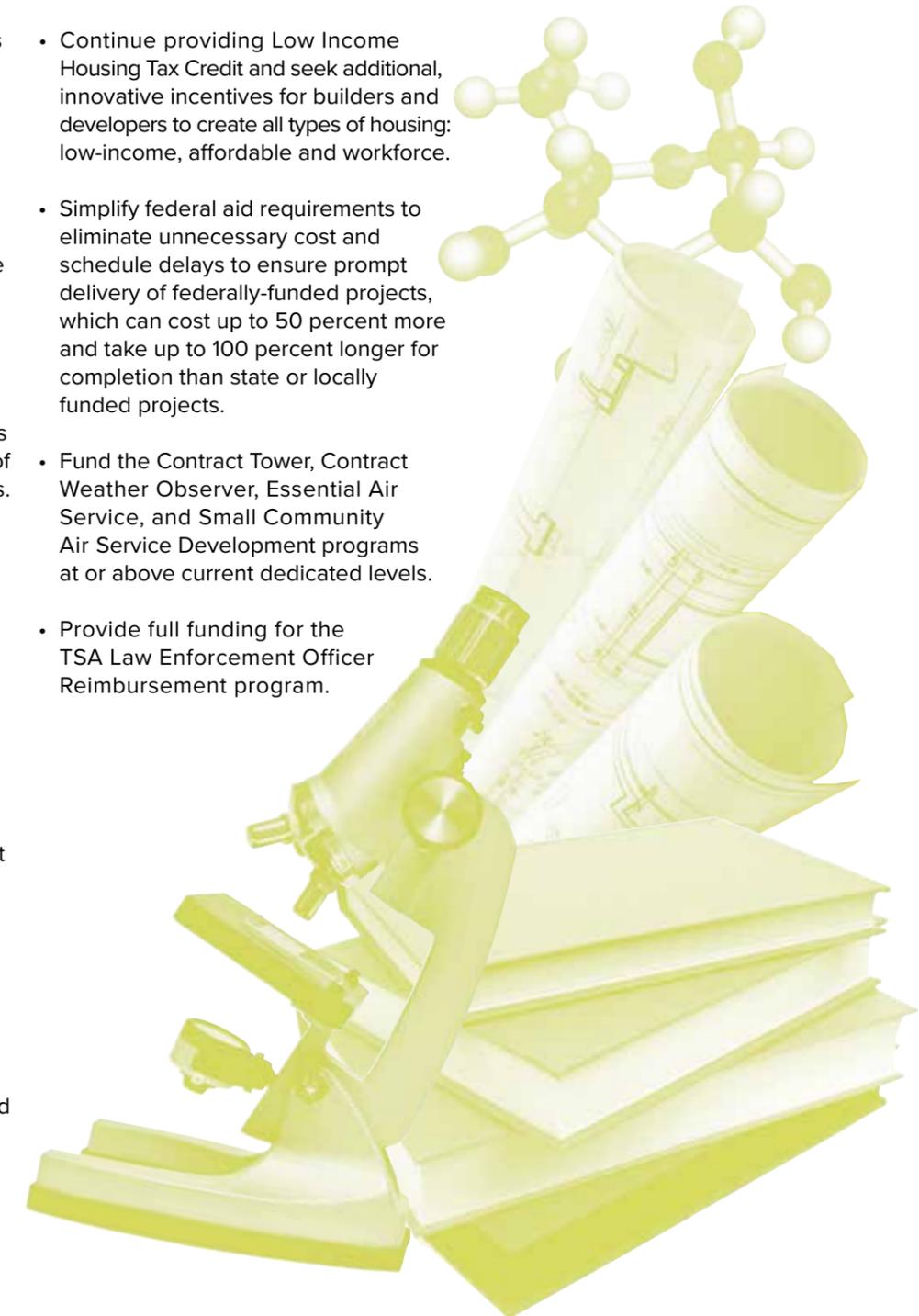
- Preserve the 340B drug savings program for hospitals that serve high volumes of high-need, low-income or rural patients.
- Stabilize the individual insurance market and ensure the availability of affordable individual plan options to enhance the health care delivery system.
- Protect, improve and grow Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicaid programs.
- Support legislative and non-legislative avenues to increase and expand access to telehealth, including increasing the reimbursement for telehealth.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships that increase access to critical areas of health care, especially in rural settings.

MENTAL HEALTH/OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- Increase the supply of behavioral health professionals and expand substance use disorder services under Medicaid and Medicare.
- Support HR 6082 to align patient privacy under HIPAA (42 CFR Part 2) which protects patient confidentiality while enabling providers access to a patient's entire medical record to treat and coordinate care.
- Expand programs that monitor opioid prescriptions and expand the use of researched, non-opioid medications.
- Expand behavioral health alternative payment models that support multi-disciplinary teams and integrated behavioral health and primary care.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Reform and streamline the federal permitting process to balance environmental protections while accelerating project reviews and returning affordability to the permitting standard.
- Continue providing Low Income Housing Tax Credit and seek additional, innovative incentives for builders and developers to create all types of housing: low-income, affordable and workforce.
- Simplify federal aid requirements to eliminate unnecessary cost and schedule delays to ensure prompt delivery of federally-funded projects, which can cost up to 50 percent more and take up to 100 percent longer for completion than state or locally funded projects.
- Fund the Contract Tower, Contract Weather Observer, Essential Air Service, and Small Community Air Service Development programs at or above current dedicated levels.
- Provide full funding for the TSA Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement program.



ABOUT GREATER SPOKANE INC.'S WORK IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Greater Spokane Inc. works year-round with the business community to advance policies that enhance our region's business climate. Throughout the past decade, our advocacy efforts have produced more than \$900 million in funding for projects that enhance the economic viability of the Inland Northwest.

Federal Government



Patty Murray
US Senator (D)



Maria Cantwell
US Senator (D)



Suzan DelBene
1st District
US House of
Representatives (D)



Rick Larsen
2nd District
US House of
Representatives (D)



Jaime Herrera Beutler
3rd District
US House of
Representatives (R)



Dan Newhouse
4th District
US House of
Representatives (R)



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
5th District
US House of
Representatives (R)



Derek Kilmer
6th District
US House of
Representatives (D)



Pramila Jayapal
7th District
US House of
Representatives (D)



Kim Schrier
8th District
US House of
Representatives (D)



Adam Smith
9th District
US House of
Representatives (D)



Denny Heck
10th District
US House of
Representatives (D)

