



Greater Spokane Incorporated

2015 Federal Legislative Priority Agenda



The 2015 Federal Legislative Priority Agenda represents a targeted advocacy approach. A prioritized agenda allows GSI to target specific legislative goals and unify the community around the most essential items that have the broadest regional impact.

POLICIES

BUSINESS CLIMATE POLICY

Export-Import Bank Reauthorization

Support the Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, a federal agency responsible for facilitating international trade by financing the purchase of domestic exports and providing guarantees or insurance for foreign lines of credit.



Pacific and Atlantic Free Trade Agreements

Support the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership to provide open access to global markets by granting the President Trade Promotion Authority to allow negotiation with foreign markets.

Immigration Reform

Encourage Congress to pass immigration reform needed to fill regional workforce demands in the agricultural, technological, and engineering industries.

Tax Reform

Encourage long-term comprehensive tax reform to provide the certainty and predictability necessary for business investment and job creation.

Chemical Safety Improvement Act

Support the passage of the Chemical Safety Improvement Act that amends the Toxics Substance Control Act. Reform is needed to exclude all uses of PCBs and production of products that contain PCBs if the greater-Spokane region is to meet Washington state water quality standards.

Marketplace Fairness Act

Support the Marketplace Fairness Act that would enable state governments to collect sales and use taxes from remote retailers with no physical presence in their state.

Federal Transportation Funding

Support a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill and the development of a long-term sustainable revenue source for our nation's transportation network. Support would include an immediate increase in the federal gas tax with future indexing to allow for inflation.

Passenger Facility Charge

Support an increase to the Passenger Facility Charge from \$4.50 to \$8.50 to generate new revenue for infrastructure improvements and expansion.

Prevent Trucker Shortage

Oppose several proposed and current policies regulating the trucking industry that contribute to the ever-growing problem of a qualified truckers shortage.

EDUCATION (P-20)

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)

Support the reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, an evidence-based home visiting

program that improves child health through nursing home visits for pregnant women and parents with children from birth to age five.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Support the reform and reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide and stabilize public school funding, and reform unfair and inaccurate accountability provisions within ESEA.

Impact Aid

Support full funding of Impact Aid to financially support school districts with non-taxable federal property and/or the cost of enrolling federally connected children.



Fund Work-Study Programs

Support Federal Work-Study, which provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

Pell Grants and Perkins Act Fund

Support legislation to preserve the current maximum grants and assure that eligibility criteria reflect the profile of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho's public and private universities and community colleges.

Medical Education and Research

- Support the Community-Based Medical Education Act of 2014 to extend the Teaching Health Center program to 2019 to train approximately 550 medical residents each year in rural and underserved communities.

SOMETHING GREATER

- Fully reauthorize the Health, Resources, and Services Administration (HRSA) grant funding for the Teaching Health Centers program to allow Eastern Washington to maintain and increase its number of residency slots as a key strategy to address our area's shortage in primary care physicians.
- Support additional funding to the National Institutes of Health and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) accounts to fund critical health sciences research.
- Support additional funding to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to enhance public health capacity, preparedness, laboratory capacity and infection control at the state, local, and federal levels.
- Encourage more providers to enter primary care through incentives such as loan repayment programs and enhanced payments for primary care services.

PROJECTS

QUALITY OF LIFE

Cleaner River Faster Cochran Basin

\$17 million in federal grants or similar funding for Phase 2 of the Cochran Basin stormwater management project, matching a Washington state capital funding request for Phase 1.

HIGHER EDUCATION

University of Washington Graduate Medical Education Demonstration Project (UW)

\$60 million over a 5-year funding period to increase the number of residents training in rural and underserved communities in the WWAMI region through a non-traditional payment method that would have federal GME funds follow the resident rather than the funds being paid directly to a hospital or other clinical-based facility.

Washington State University (WSU) Medical School: Support for THC-GME

Support reauthorization or extension of Program of Payments to Teaching Health



Centers (THC) that operate Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. The Spokane Teaching Health Center supports the goal to increase GME capacity, and create and foster university interdepartmental and clinical faculty opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION

US-395 North Spokane Corridor (NSC): Francis Avenue to I-90

\$750 million to finish connecting I-90 on the south end to existing US-2 and US-395 with several interchanges along the 5.5-mile route.

I-90/SR-902 Medical Lake Interchange Improvements

\$18 million to improve the existing interchange with new roundabouts, bridge widening, and ramp upgrades.

I-90 Barker Road to Harvard Road

\$25 million to address access-point deficiencies, over-height restrictions, and a failing level of service through several modifications.

Barker Road Grade Separation Project

\$19.5 million to separate vehicle traffic from train traffic, allowing critical transit, trade, and emergency access in the area.

University District Gateway Bridge

\$8.8 million to develop a non-motorized connection over the railroad separating the University District from East Downtown Spokane.

Central City Line

Support continued funding of the Small Starts Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Program in order to provide up to \$56.2 million in federal funding toward the construction and operation of a Modern Electric Trolley (MET) between Spokane Community College and Browne's Addition via downtown Spokane and the University District.

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE

KC-46A Tankers

Support Fairchild AFB to be the next active duty Main Operating Base (MOB) for siting of the KC-46A refueling tankers.

Water Survival Program

Support the decision made by the USAF Air Education Training Command (AETC) to move the water survival program to the 336th Training Group at Fairchild AFB.

MILCON

Support modernization of facilities and equipment at Fairchild AFB through projects eligible for MILCON as submitted by Fairchild AFB and the Air Mobility Command (AMC).

P4 Project

Support Fairchild AFB's top P4 Project, to create a multi-law enforcement partnership in developing an indoor shooting range where Airmen can train and qualify.



ABOUT GREATER SPOKANE INCORPORATED'S PUBLIC POLICY WORK

Greater Spokane Incorporated works year-round with the business community to advance policies that enhance our region's business climate through economic development, small business and workforce development initiatives, facilities and infrastructure improvements, and capital and operating budget funding for regional programs and projects. Throughout the past decade, Greater Spokane Incorporated's 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)



Jim McDermott
7th District
US House of
Representatives (D)



David Reichert
8th District
US House of
Representatives (R)



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



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



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