



2017 Federal Legislative Priority Agenda

GREATER SPOKANE INCORPORATED is the Spokane region's next generation business development organization, transforming our business community and economy by connecting businesses to valuable relationships and resources, driving initiatives to improve our region and advocating for business with a unified voice.

GSI's 2017 Federal Legislative Priority Agenda represents policies and funding to:

- Create a healthier climate for businesses to start, grow and compete
- Promote Fairchild Air Force Base as the Refueling Center of Excellence
- Improve education attainment from cradle to career
- Enhance our region's largest economic driver – health care
- Develop the infrastructure to fuel our economy



BUSINESS CLIMATE POLICY

Create a healthier climate for businesses to start, grow and compete



As a border community, the greater Spokane region is especially sensitive to the cost of doing business. Attracting new employers and expanding our existing employment base remains the greatest challenge our region faces in growing our economy.

TAX REFORM

- Encourage long-term comprehensive tax reform to provide the certainty and predictability necessary for business investment and job creation.
- Support the Marketplace Fairness Act and Remote Transaction Parity Act, which enable state and local governments to collect taxes from remote retailers with no physical presence in Washington.
- Expand the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income workers.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

- Support efforts to amend EPA's water quality standards for Washington State to be reasonable, measurable and attainable for Washington's businesses and communities.
- Monitor the progress of legal and executive actions on the Clean Power Plan and EPA's Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule.
- Support efforts by the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) to amend the Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) that currently allows Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in excluded manufacturing processes (such as pigments) up to 50 parts per million (ppm).

HELPING BUSINESS DO BUSINESS

- Support a nationwide increase in funding for Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC) that help businesses market products and services to government.
- Support regulatory needs of state-sanctioned cannabis-related businesses, including access to traditional banking products and services.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- Establish and preserve fair and free trade agreements that give businesses ease of access to international markets from Washington, the most trade-dependent state in the nation.
- Support the appointment by Congress of the necessary board members for the Export-Import Bank to be fully functioning.

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE (FAFB)

Promote FAFB as the U.S. Air Force Refueling Center of Excellence



Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB) is Spokane's largest single-site employer, responsible for more than 5,000 direct jobs and immense economic impact. It is well positioned to be the largest, most vital air refueling base in the western United States because of its strategic location, infrastructure and capacity, strong community support, and years of mission experience.

TANKER ASSIGNMENT

Retain and expand Fairchild's critical role in fueling the U.S. Air Force's global mobility and reach through additional tanker assignments, regardless of the type of aircraft.

MILCON

Support modernization of facilities and equipment through projects eligible for Military Construction (MILCON) funding as submitted by FAFB and the Air Mobility Command (AMC).

TRAINING

- Support Air Education Training Command (AETC) facilities that are required for the U.S. Air Force Water Survival Program at FAFB.
- Support FAFB's P4 project to create a multi-law enforcement partnership in developing an indoor shooting range where Airmen can train and qualify.

EMPLOYMENT

Provide certification exemptions for professional and military spouses to allow for easier entrance to the workforce when moving nationally.

EDUCATION

Improve education attainment from cradle to career

GSI is committed to increasing the postsecondary attainment rate to 60 percent by 2025. The availability of a qualified and skilled workforce is the top factor companies consider as they look to expand or relocate. Having the right talent depends on our ability to support investments across the education continuum with a focus on career awareness and career-connected learning, STEM, and postsecondary access.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Reauthorize the Higher Education Act to address the issues of affordability and college costs; access, persistence and completion; better information for consumers; student loan programs; accreditation and oversight; innovation; and burden of federal regulations.

YEAR-ROUND PELL GRANTS

Expand the Pell Grant to be available during the entire academic year, including for summer coursework, and extend the lifetime eligibility for use of the Pell Grant beyond the current 12 semesters.

STEM EDUCATION

Support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and higher-education initiatives to expand both intellectual and physical assets in STEM degrees including the health sciences and health care fields.

EARLY LEARNING

- Support Early Head Start, Preschool Development Grants, and Child Care Development Block Grants (CCDBG) to ensure the education of pre-K learners.
- Increase the CCDBG allocation that assists parents earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level with a subsidy for child care and access to high quality learning for their children.
- Reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) funding that serves at-risk and low-income families in Spokane County with home visiting services by nurses to educate and support parents as their child's first teacher.

IMPACT AID FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS

Advocate for refugee students to be considered "federally connected" for purposes of calculating and distributing impact aid. Provide increased funding specifically for the increased costs associated with the education of refugee students.

HEALTH CARE

Enhance our region's largest economic driver

GSI's VISION 2030 initiative, in partnership with the business, health care and education sectors, is working to address the shortage of physicians, dentists and other health sciences careers in the region, expand health and life sciences research, grow the health and life sciences industry, and improve access to health care for low-income and underserved areas.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION TRAINING

- Advocate for Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding to provide for the critical need of well-educated and properly trained physicians in our region.
- Fully reauthorize the Health, Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant funding to create a permanent funding source for Teaching Health Centers to allow Eastern Washington to increase its number of residency slots as a key strategy to address our area's shortage in primary care physicians.

HEALTH SCIENCE RESEARCH

- Support robust funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to promote research and innovation for the health sciences.
- Support continued funding for the U.S. Small Business Administration Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs to accelerate capital formation for small and startup businesses and promote technology transfer to the private sector.
- Support funding for the Agency for Health Research and Quality that supports patient care, quality and safety.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Ensure that any changes to the Affordable Care Act preserve affordable access to health care for those at risk of losing coverage; prevent disruption or harm to the health care delivery system; and sustain Medicaid waivers that help states finance coverage for low-income people.

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

Reauthorize and expand the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program, which provides nourishment, education, and referrals for health care and social services to low-income mothers and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.

TRANSPORTATION

Develop the infrastructure to fuel our economy

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

Ensure the FAA's Reauthorization legislation is inclusive of all aviation stakeholders and provides regulatory reforms, oppose the privatization of the air traffic control system, and provides full funding of grant programs authorized by Congress for infrastructure at the nation's airports. The reauthorization should include:

- Eliminating the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) User Fee cap and allow for the charge to be set by local jurisdictions so that the Airport can more efficiently fund the Terminal Renovations and Expansion project with less debt.
- Supporting a four-year Reauthorization term.
- Protecting the Felts Field Contract Tower from closure by the FAA or a new ATC Corporation through specific language in appropriations legislation requiring FAA to operate and fund the federal contract tower program and maintain all towers currently in the program.

- Requiring the FAA to operate and fund the Contract Weather Observer Program for all sites currently in the program.
- Protecting Spokane International Airport (SIA) and Fairchild Air Force Base from a reduction of operational hours at the SIA Air Traffic Control Tower.
- Requiring the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to continue the Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Reimbursement program for SIA and to restore the LEO Reimbursement program funding to reverse the 30 percent reduction in reimbursement, as well as, requiring the TSA to fund additional K9 teams for SIA.
- Requiring Congress to enforce existing language that mandates TSA to be responsible for all equipment for and staffing of employee screening at airports.

FREIGHT MOBILITY AND SAFETY PROJECTS

- Reconstruction of the I-90/Barker Road interchange to alleviate traffic stress and accommodate oversized loads.
- Safety improvements at the I-90/US 195 interchange, Latah Creek Bridge to accommodate a historically fast-growing portion of the City of Spokane.
- Grade separations at Barker Road and Pines Road to improve traffic flow and safety.
- New passing lanes on SR 904 (Betz Road to I-90), US 395 (Half Moon Road to Stevens County Line), and SR 290 (Barker Road to Idaho State Line) to ease congestion and improve safety.
- West Plains Rail Project, to expand economic development opportunities at Spokane International Airport and address rail safety issues in the City of Cheney.

SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY (STA)

Sustain the capital investment grant funding for transportation and support the STA's Small Starts Grant application that will provide funding for the Central City Line.

ABOUT GREATER SPOKANE INCORPORATED'S WORK IN GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Greater Spokane Incorporated works year-round with the business community to advance policies that enhance our region's business climate. 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)



Pramila Jayapal
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)

