The 2015 Legislative Session was full of triumphs for Eastern Washington. Many projects were funded and reforms were granted in the greater-Spokane area, including medical school funding for both University of Washington and Washington State University, and the passing of a state transportation package that will fund the completion of the North Spokane Corridor. GSI thanks its members first and foremost for their support and their help in pushing forward such a large community endeavor.

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

**SPOKANE RIVER REGIONAL TOXICS TASK FORCE** – $310,000
Funding will help continue the community effort to find and reduce toxic compounds in the Spokane River.

**REGIONAL SUPPORT NETWORKS AND MENTAL HEALTH** – $2,250,000
Provides funding for the Spokane Regional Support Network to provide mental health services.

**MT. SPOKANE AREA IMPROVEMENTS** – $3,966,000
Funding will help upgrade and improve facilities at Mt. Spokane State Park.

**KEY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

**HIGHER EDUCATION:**
- University of Washington (UW) Funding for WWAMI Program – $9,000,000
  Provides funding for the UW WWAMI program to increase medical school enrollment and grow medical residencies, research, and commercialization activities.
- Washington State University (WSU) Medical School Startup Costs – $2,500,000
  WSU Medical School will use funding for curriculum, courses, faculty, and other startup costs.
- Eastern Washington University (EWU) Science Building – $4,791,000
  EWU will begin the design and construction of a new science building.
- Legislation to Allow Multiple State Medical Schools
  WSU will be able to establish the state’s second publicly-funded medical school to increase the number of primary care physicians in Eastern Washington.

**P-12 EDUCATION:**
- Early Start Act – $158,000,000 (statewide)
  The Early Start Act will allow for high-quality early learning programs to prepare children for success in the classroom.

**Spokane Valley Tech (SVT) Phase III** – $990,000
The Spokane Valley Tech Phase III improvements will finish the 11,000-square-foot facility and create a new environment to prepare students for college and high demand careers.

**Full Funding of State Match for School Construction Projects** – $611,099,000 (statewide)
This funding will help schools to build, expand and create new learning environments for students.

**Levy Equalization for School Districts with Lower Property Tax Bases**
Washington state provides equity between school districts located in the property-rich areas and the schools located in areas where the property assessments are lower by providing matching state funds to offset differences in funding.

**NEWTECH Skill Center** – $8,150,000
The NEWTECH Skill Center will continue modernization to support technical and professional training to all area high school students.

**TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE CAPITAL FUNDING** – $940,700,000
Funding will be provided for maintenance, preservation, and non-highway projects such as bike paths, pedestrian walkways, and transit. Regional projects to be constructed include the North Spokane Corridor ($878,900,000), Medical Lake Interchange Improvements ($26,600,000), Barker Road to Harvard Road ($26,400,000) and the U-District Gateway Bridge ($8,800,000).

**FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE (FAFB) CAPITAL FUNDING** – $2,209,000
Received funding to purchase land in the Accident Potential Zone to protect FAFB from encroachment.

**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE TAX REFORM**
The Hazardous Substance Tax Reform will restrict tax to crop-protection products used, manufactured, packaged, or sold in Washington state, and waive the tax on products stored for use elsewhere.
# 2015 Advocacy Efforts

The following legislation and community projects have passed and were funded during the 2015 Legislative Session. GSI, in collaboration with its members, partners, Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce and West Plains Chamber of Commerce successfully advocated for these projects throughout the year. This year’s advocacy efforts resulted in more than $1.7 billion in funding for projects that enhance the region’s business climate. A ✓ signifies a legislator voting YES for a particular project; an ✗ signifies a NO vote.

## 2015 State Legislative Scorecard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENATORS</th>
<th>Higher Education</th>
<th>P-12 Education</th>
<th>REPRESENTATIVES</th>
<th>Transportation Package</th>
<th>Fairchild Air Force Base</th>
<th>Hazardous Substance Tax Reform</th>
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<td>Andy Billig</td>
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* Not in office at time of vote.

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**Want to Know More?**

For more information, contact Sandra Jarrard, Public Policy Director at 509.321.3622 or sjarrard@greaterspokane.org.
ABOUT GREATER SPOKANE INCORPORATED’S WORK IN PUBLIC POLICY

This year GSI’s public policy advocacy efforts produced impressive results that will make a difference today and well into the future. With a total 2015 funding package in excess of $1.7 billion, our region is set to benefit from immense improvements that will enhance the economic viability of the Inland Northwest for years to come.