



2022 FEDERAL AGENDA

COMMUNITY

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

GROWTH

Together, we support business expansion to create job growth for a thriving economy.

VOICE

Together, we have a greater voice for the future of our region.

TALENT

Together, we build, champion and retain a talented workforce.

ENGAGEMENT

Investment, Communications, Partnerships, Events, Programming



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Our 2022 Federal Agenda is developed in collaboration with our community and business leaders, local government and school district partners, higher education and community college institutions, and non-profit and labor leaders from across our Spokane region.

MISSION

We lead transformative business and community initiatives to build a robust regional economy.

VISION

A vibrant Spokane region where businesses and communities thrive.

VALUES

Collaboration

We are inclusive and welcome diverse perspectives that reflect the aspirations of our community.

Innovation

We are resourceful and creative and strive for intentional progress in all that we do.

Respect

We foster mutually respectful relationships between members, our partners and the community.

WHAT WE DO

As the Spokane area'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.

HEALTHCARE AND LIFE SCIENCES

- Reform the graduate medical education (GME) program to increase GME slots for communities like Spokane. Expand available funding for residency programs in the critical areas of primary care, family medicine, and mental health.
- Support policies and programs that expand innovation clusters in the Northwest, including the Evergreen Biosciences Cluster in Washington, Idaho, and Montana.
- Continue funding for health and life sciences research including the National Institute for Health and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.
- Invest in undergraduate and graduate research to allow all students, especially those from underrepresented communities, to engage in meaningful applied research.
- Extend and stabilize funding for the Community Health Center Fund, the Teaching Health Centers Program, and the National Health Service Corps.
- Prioritize investments in mental and behavioral health services, particularly for underserved and rural populations.
- Further expand access to telehealth, including increasing reimbursement for providing telehealth services.

TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Create policy in America COMPETES/USICA to open opportunity for small-to-medium-sized communities to compete for federal economic development resources.
- Expand investments in Opportunity Zones, which encourage economic activity and job creation in low-income/high unemployment areas.
- Repeal amortization of R&D expenditures under Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). Push for expansion of R&D investments domestically to strengthen supply chains through inclusion in America COMPETES/USICA.
- Renew Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) laws to open markets, expand U.S. exports, and support domestic job growth.





CHILD CARE & K-12 EDUCATION

- Expand and fund the Child Care for Working Families Act so low and moderate-income families can have access to affordable childcare.
- Increase funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs, especially for low-income and underserved communities.
- Increase federal funding and support for K-12 school safety programs and needed capital infrastructure.

HIGHER ED

- Expand the University of Washington/Washington State University Center for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases facility improvements for the expanded study of SARS-CoV2 variants and other emergent viral threats to public health.
- Reauthorize the Higher Education Act and target programs that invest directly in students (especially those from underserved communities and facing learning challenges), such as Pell Grants, supplemental education opportunity grants, federal work-study programs, TRiO/GEAR UP programs, and STEM education.
- Support and fund the Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program at the University of Washington, including \$1.5 million for a dental simulation lab in Spokane.
- Fund the Pell Grant to \$13,000 per student to increase access to quality higher education for disadvantaged students.

WORKFORCE

- Support federal fixes, including HR 2650, that eases state restrictions in licensure for military spouses.
- Fund Career and Technical Education and apprenticeship programs to develop work-based learning opportunities.
- Support new and innovative ways to recruit and retain skilled workers, especially in the transportation, information technology, construction, and advanced manufacturing sectors.
- Reauthorize and expand the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to strengthen our public workforce system to target youth and those facing significant barriers to sustainable employment.

MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

- Support modernization and recapitalization of facilities through MILCON to include aircraft parts warehouse expansion and SERE Water Survival Training Facility.
- Support efforts to develop housing near or on Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB), to house crews moving to the area in support of new missions.
- Pass federal legislation like HR 6647 which would fix a critical gap for emergency care in existing VA benefits through the Veterans Community Care (VCC) program.
- Support federal initiatives that increase food security for our service members and their families.
- Call for an expansion of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to include military spouses.
- Implement an Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program for childcare expenses of military families.





BROADBAND

- Support the Broadband Data Improvement Act, which revamps the broadband mapping process so federal agencies and private industry can target enhancements to areas most needed to bridge the digital divide in rural communities.
- Expand federal assistance to build out reliable and high-speed connectivity targeted to underserved communities, schools, health care providers, and rural communities.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

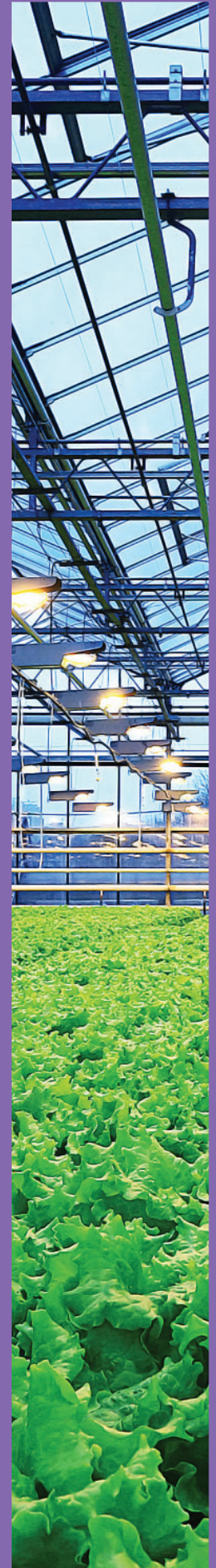
- Ensure Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Congressionally Directed Spending appropriations reflect community priorities in the Spokane region.
- Strengthen freight mobility by investing in and supporting the movement of goods along all modes of transportation, including highways, railways, airways, and waterways.
- Reform and streamline the federal permitting process for infrastructure projects to balance environmental protections while accelerating project reviews and making the process cost-effective.
- Support the funding request by Spokane Airports for its Phase 2 terminal renovation and expansion project.

ENERGY

- Support hydropower as a clean, renewable resource and oppose efforts to breach large dams in the Pacific Northwest (such as the lower Snake River dams).
- Encourage Congress to take an “all of the above” approach to clean, affordable energy that recognizes the vital need for increased domestic energy production and the necessity of natural gas for a clean energy transition.
- Invest to modernize the power grid to improve reliability and resiliency with new technologies and additional transmission capacity.
- Support federal programs, research, resources, and incentives that can accelerate Spokane’s transition to clean energy and reduce CO2 emissions, including the electrification of transportation (auto and buses); the improved energy efficiency of buildings and infrastructure; and the optimization of smart building technologies, use of sustainable materials, and grid interaction to engineer zero-carbon buildings (such as the South Landing project).

AGRIBUSINESS

- Ensure the 2023 Farm Bill promotes Washington’s agricultural priorities including expanded access to international markets.
- Reform the agricultural worker program, such as the H-2A program, to ensure an adequate workforce for farms and protection for workers.
- Address budget shortfalls in USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) program at Washington State University to ensure robust agricultural research continues to benefit stakeholders across the nation.





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