

2023

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Prepared for the 2023 Washington State Legislative Session



The following State Legislative Agenda is prepared by the Columbia River Economic Development Council's Policy and Legislation Committee and its partners to inform Southwest Washington legislators on the alignment between proposed policies and projects with the 2018-2023 Clark County Comprehensive Economic Development Plan.

2023 PRIORITIES

- Support state-level leadership and funding for economic development, including Business Recruitment, Retention & Expansion programs [State]
- Increase funding for regional capacity to coordinate and deliver economic development services through a new and ongoing \$10 million "ADO Innovation, Sustainability, Partnerships & Equity Fund" as proposed by the Department of Commerce [State]
- Support the Governor's Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund [State]
- Protect targeted incentives to foster innovation clusters and stimulate private investment [State/Federal]
- Monitor Tax Structure Work Group's proposal; keep business community informed [State]
- Support the Economic Security for All investment expansion in local workforce development strategies to close the growing employment divide across high growth and in-demand sectors
- Support and protect investments in road and transit infrastructure, maintenance, and services to move people and freight more efficiently [State/Federal]
 - Prioritization of Interstate Bridge Replacement (Federal/State) and necessary improvements that include more lanes, high-capacity transit, improved freight mobility, seismic support, and dedicated pathways for bicycle and pedestrian traffic ~a combination of federal funds and state funds from Washington and Oregon as well as tolls would fund the project
 - Support West Camas Slough Bridge widening (\$45 million)

- Support \$1.1 million annually to sustain and expand Small Business funding for Procurement Technical Assistance [State] in alignment with increased Defense Authorization Act funding [Federal]
- Passage of the “TIF Fix” bill to address necessary technical corrections to TIF for Jobs law (2021) [State]
- Support the Port of Vancouver \$3.5 million dock deconstruction capital project request
- Create support for ways in which the development-ready status of the employment lands is determined in each jurisdiction. [Local/State]
- Encourages the allocation of adequate funding to local jurisdictions to effectively implement planning directives from the state [State]
- Support \$2.5 million request for Industrial Site Readiness for shovel-ready manufacturing sites [State]
- Support state public works programs designed to help recover and expand businesses including: Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), Public Works Trust Fund and the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) [State]
- Support broadband capacity initiatives and investment [State]

WATCHLIST

- Support **continued investment in Port of Vancouver Terminal 1** waterfront development project
- Monitor **Chips & Science Act** developments that support for local computers and electronics industry (Federal – Adopted 2022)
- Monitor **Clark County Wetland & Habitat Code** update
- Monitor Washington State Board of Community and Technical College priorities that ensure Clark College has the budgetary resources to **provide Career Connected Training for high demand jobs** in Clark County.
- Monitor the reframing of the **0.09% sales tax rural economic development dialogue**.
- Track Association of Washington Business’ advocacy around diversified clean energy policy supporting **Washington State’s Energy Competitiveness**
- Advocate for the **maintenance of the Columbia and Snake River systems**
- Monitor process for evaluating **Cascadia Technical Academy’s advancement** for planning phase and expansion construction funding after eight years in queue