

2015 Economic Growth Agenda

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce's five-member lobbying team will work to promote our Economic Growth Agenda, which offers a plan that will ignite economic growth, create greater affordability, and generate more jobs for Vermonters.

With a \$100 million projected budget deficit this year, spending and revenue will drive policy discussions at the State House. To solve these ongoing challenges, economic growth and job creation must be at the forefront of all discussions.

We are encouraging the Legislature to expand the brand for Vermont, embracing a compelling, forward looking narrative for economic development which will help address the very real challenges we face in Vermont.

Brand Vermont must evolve to better assist the growth of new sectors that can flourish here and provide great jobs. We want to champion a new vision for Vermont environmentalism, one that embraces not only our natural environment, but our economic environment as well. What makes Vermont a great place...makes Vermont a great place to do business. A state that is -- innovative by nature.

This will require no appropriation from existing revenue and will address key factors for growth including:

- our revenue shortfall by increasing rooms and meals tax revenue;
- our talent acquisition challenge by encouraging workers to stay in or move to Vermont
- our need for more businesses by marketing our growing sectors including technology, manufacturing, energy and food products.

The Economic Growth Agenda also includes recommendations to:

- Preserve the Agency of Commerce and Community Development budget, which is currently less than one percent of the General Fund;
- Address spending problems in education, health care and the State's general fund while avoiding harmful tax increases;
- Support existing workforce training programs to invest in Vermonters and address the growing challenge of talent acquisition for businesses;
- Contain health care costs through ongoing work at the Green Mountain Care Board; and
- Facilitate growth and development by addressing process issues in permitting.

The Vermont Chamber will continue to bring the voice of business to the State House, so we ensure that economic growth is part of the solution. The Economic Growth Agenda will show legislative leaders how to support an environment that will grow our economy, create greater affordability, and generate more jobs for Vermonters.

