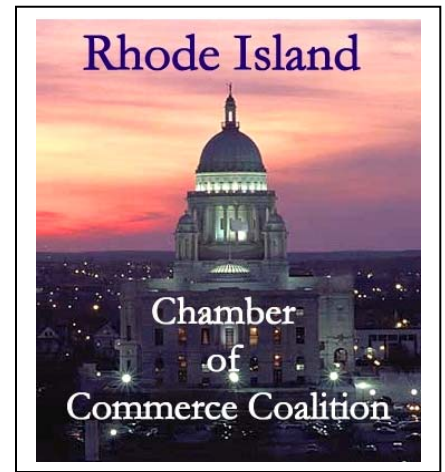


*Central Rhode Island, Cranston, East Bay, East Greenwich,
East Providence Area, Newport County, North Central,
Northern Rhode Island, North Kingstown,
South Kingstown & Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck
Chambers of Commerce*

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2010 Business (Legislative) Agenda

➤ **The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsible budget and taxation policy crafted to:**

- **Provide short term and long term fiscal responsibility and sustainability**
- **Allow Rhode Island businesses to remain competitive**
- **Preserve necessary services for the businesses and citizens of Rhode Island**

The Chambers oppose proposals to increase taxes or fees or institute new taxes or fees. The Chambers believe that increasing taxes is the wrong solution to the state's fiscal problems, and that responsibly controlling state spending is a better solution.

➤ **The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsible changes to the Employees' Retirement System laws that result in substantial savings for State taxpayers.**

➤ **The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports measures designed to provide for a competent, well-trained workforce while guaranteeing employers' rights to conduct business in a manner consistent with free market principles.**

The Chambers support workforce-training initiatives and oppose use of employer contributed workforce development dollars to non-workforce training uses. The Chambers oppose mandatory increases in minimum wage tied to indexes. The Chambers oppose efforts to reduce the threshold dollar amount necessary for automatic implementation of Project Labor Agreements.

The Chambers oppose proposals that directly conflict with these goals.

➤ **The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports equitable, consistent and reasonable government regulation.**

The Chambers oppose overly burdensome and unnecessary regulation.

The Chambers oppose amending class action laws for currently regulated businesses.

The Chambers oppose creating duplicate oversight for businesses currently subject to regulatory authority.

➤ **The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports legislative and regulatory reforms ensuring Rhode Island businesses and employees have access to affordable, quality health care.**

The Chambers support reasonable and effective tort reform.

➤ **The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsibly investing in and supporting all levels of public education.**

The Chambers support efforts to provide a high-caliber, affordable system that prepares students for entrance into the workforce.

The Chambers will encourage the General Assembly to pass legislation defining a new school aid formula that is fair and equitable. The Chambers will support remedies designed to allow for more effective use of public education dollars through efforts such as step process revisions, removing health insurance out of local contracts and allowing the state to universally provide for districts.

➤ **The Chamber of Commerce Coalition supports responsible measures to protect the environment of the State of Rhode Island.**

The Chamber of Commerce Coalition is comprised of 11 Chambers of Commerce, representing 12,000 member businesses. It is the largest business advocacy group in Rhode Island.