

## Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce

### Public Policy Positions

The Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce recognizes that government has a responsibility to support and protect all citizens. The Chamber is cognizant of the fact that government has a direct role to play in creating a climate that is conducive to growing the economy.

In order to create a climate that encourages business expansion and responsible growth, The Chamber supports efforts to grow our state that recognize the inherent beauty and culture that is Vermont.

The Chamber has adopted the following Policies in an effort to expand our economic profile, support our environment and create jobs.

**BUDGET AND TAXES** - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Promote economic growth
- 2) Do not disproportionately burden the business community or one business sector
- 2) Limit state government growth to no more than the historic rates of annual inflation
- 3) Reduce corporate taxes to encourage private sector growth
- 5) Rely exclusively on property taxes to fund local government
- 6) Oppose the imposition or expansion of Local Option Taxes

**HEALTH CARE REFORM** - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Maintain and expand personal choice and responsibility regarding health care costs
- 2) Bring transparency to health care pricing
- 3) Promote efficiency throughout Vermont's health care system

**ENERGY** - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Encourage reliable and affordable electricity and fuels for heating and transportation
- 2) Ensure rates that are competitive and are cognizant of the cost to businesses of all sizes
- 3) Encourage energy conservation and use of renewables without shifting costs
- 4) Support local control over siting renewable energy sources

**PERMITTING** - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Simplify and streamline the permitting process
- 2) Create a permit process that is timely, more predictable and less subjective
- 3) Reduce the numbers of appeals, and reimburse the prevailing party for direct and indirect costs

**TRANSPORTATION** - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Recognize that many forms of VT transportation infrastructure are vital to the Vermont economy
- 2) Support the use of transportation funds exclusively for transportation projects
- 3) Ensure that the transportation fund is supported by all modes of motorized transportation
- 4) Expand private sector reliance to deliver transportation projects more efficiently
- 5) Support creative ways to leverage federal funds to ensure that needed projects get completed
- 6) Maintain private sector access to transportation projects

7) Align Vermont transportation policies do that they are competitive with neighboring states

EDUCATION & FUNDING - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Return Vermont per-pupil spending to no more than 130% of the national average
- 2) Reduce property taxes by increasing the pupil-to-teacher ratio
- 3) Provides students with the option of attending any elementary or secondary school
- 4) Promote efficiencies through consolidation

EMPLOYER/BUSINESS MANDATES - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Hold businesses and employer mandates to a minimum
- 2) Avoid additional paperwork and reports that consume precious time and resources
- 3) Encourage business expansion and job creation

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR - The Central VT Chamber supports policies that:

- 1) Enable employers to maintain a safe and productive working environment
- 2) Support the rights of individuals to work without being compelled to join a union or compelled to pay for any part of the cost of union representation
- 3) Provide equal pay for equal work
- 4) Support visa programs that encourage temporary workers to legally seek employment in the United States