



The Voice of Economic Development

WEDA Newsletter - November 2018

Working Together for Jobs & Economic Prosperity Across Washington State

2019 Legislative Agenda



After a well-attended WEDA Legislative Retreat in September at Suncadia, WEDA's leaders have finalized our 2019 State Legislative Agenda focused on "Working Together for Jobs and Economic Prosperity Across Washington."

WEDA's Legislative Agenda outlines our strategy for retaining, expanding and recruiting jobs and investment across Washington State. The Agenda focuses on the most critical actions lawmakers can take to retain and grow living wage jobs, foster vibrant communities and spark investment in Washington State.

WEDA's Top Legislative Priorities for 2019 include:

- 1) **Strengthening the Economic Development Ecosystem** – supporting state-level leadership in economic development and investing more in regional and local capacity to grow jobs.
- 2) **Fostering Catalysts for Job Growth & Competitiveness** – advocating for public works programs designed to support expanding businesses, increased investments in roads/transit infrastructure and services, protecting targeted incentives for aerospace and expanding these to all manufacturing, and supporting increased broadband capacity initiatives.
- 3) **Increasing Prosperity Across All of Washington** – supporting policies and investments that ensure that all parts of the state benefit in increased prosperity such as the Sales & Use Tax for Public Facilities in Rural Counties and legislation to incentivize development of Class A office space statewide.

"Washington has enjoyed an unprecedented economic boom, yet there are many communities across the state that are still struggling – some counties have unemployment rates over 9%. There are also pockets of serious poverty in our urban counties. We need a strong economic development ecosystem to increase prosperity across all of Washington," said WEDA Board Chair Jon Smith.

Mike Bomar, WEDA Board Chair-Elect and Legislative Committee Chair added, "WEDA's 2019 Legislative Agenda focuses on the tools needed to empower communities across Washington to be world-class economic engines and assist businesses large and small in becoming globally competitive. WEDA believes the time is now to plan ahead with proactive measures to sustain our current economic vitality."

We are looking forward to WEDA investors participating in our regular Legislative Update conference calls and joining us for WEDA Lobbying Days in Olympia.