



The Voice of Economic Development

WEDA Newsletter – January 2019

Working Together for Jobs & Economic Prosperity Across Washington State

Legislative Update: WEDA's Agenda in Action



The Washington State Legislature convened January 14 for its “long” legislative session, scheduled to last 105 days. The first week of the session is mostly focused on ceremonial and procedural items, including swearing-in ceremonies, speeches and presentations about the Governor’s budget and agency request legislation. The Legislature must adopt a new biennial operating budget by June 30, 2019.

WEDA’s board, staff and members are actively advocating like never before for 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 (SB 5051).

All dues-paying WEDA investors should be receiving our weekly Legislative Updates. WEDA members are welcomed to participate in our bi-weekly Legislative Update conference calls and we hope you will join us for our upcoming WEDA Advocacy Days on January 29 and February 13, as well as our Winter Conference March 5-6, all in Olympia. We need you to get engaged with WEDA’s advocacy for growing jobs across Washington!