



The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to present you with our 2006 Governmental Affairs Resource Guide. While the guide will present you with the Chamber's four areas of strategic policy focus, the work of the Chamber will not end there. Throughout the year we will be advocating for you and your business, with representation at every level of government. Our goal is to advocate for policies and laws that will assist in the success of your business and to continue the efforts of "Growing Our Community One Business at a Time."

This Governmental Affairs Resource Guide was brought to you by the generosity of Benton PUD.



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN
Be Seen...Be Noticed...Be Heard can mean a lot of different things. In politics it means everything. These three key components are what your Chamber is doing to become a success in the area of public policy issues.

The Chamber's goal in producing this information is that its members will have a voice from City Hall, to Olympia, to Washington DC. We hope you will use this information to convey your needs in the political arena and help take action on legislative issues that impact your bottom line. For you and your business, it means an opportunity for greater success in reaching your elected leaders when an issue affects your business.

Be Seen, Be Noticed and Be Heard are reasons why I think it is important for you to get involved in public policy at *your* Chamber of Commerce. 2006 will be an exciting year in public policy. I look forward to working with you to help make the Tri-City region a better place to work and live.

Glenn Bestebreuer
Chair—Government Affairs/Public Policy

P.S. Please mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Elected Leader's Reception in December to thank these elected officials for their dedication and hard work.

EVENTS

- State of the Cities Address—
January 25th, 2006
- State of the Congressional District—*August 23th, 2006*
- Joint Chambers Trip to Olympia—
February 2nd & 3rd, 2006
- Legislative Preview—
November 15th, 2006
- State of the Counties Address—
February 22nd, 2006
- Elected Leaders' Reception—
December 2006
- State of the Ports—
June 28th, 2006

BE SEEN BE NOTICED BE HEARD



2006 *Governmental Affairs* RESOURCE GUIDE



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City LEADERSHIP

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Pasco WA 99301
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Richland WA 99352
www.ci.richland.wa.us
942-7390



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TRI-CITY

REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
W · A · S · H · I · N · G · T · O · N

MISSION

The Chamber is organized for the purpose of advancing the economic, industrial, professional, cultural, agricultural and civic welfare of the greater Tri-City community.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

We are actively working to preserve and enhance the region's existing competitive advantages.



Promoting an aggressive business environment including tax policies that encourage investment in the region, and a regulatory environment that empowers business growth, while preserving our quality of life.

Promoting land use policies and growth management decisions developed locally to accommodate business growth and development.

Supporting the promotion of agricultural and natural resource industries as a vital component of the regional economy.

FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

We are building and improving public facilities to enhance the region's economy, quality of life and the ability to deliver necessary services.

Ensuring adequate transportation facilities exist to promote the efficient movement of goods and people to, through and from our region, and accommodating growth, while preserving our quality of life.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We are ensuring a skilled and productive workforce by matching programs and degrees with industry needs and facilitating collaboration among industry and educational institutions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We are ensuring that our region has necessary economic development resources and tools to effectively compete with the rest of the state and nation for quality business growth.

Expanding the presence of and capacity for research and technology transfer activities in the region as a key economic development strategy.



CAPITAL & OPERATING PRIORITIES FOR 2005

- Regional Higher Education:** \$350,000 seed funding for the development of a strategic plan for higher education.
- Regional Higher Education:** Support of a Four-Year Institution status for WSU-TC and thereby facilitating coordinated Bachelor's Degree Programs with CBC.
- Red Mountain American Viticultural Area (AVA):** \$250,000 in funding for the second phase of development of a Master Site Plan for the Red Mountain Viticultural Park.
- Water Policy:** Encourage a water policy that supports a future for a growing economy for municipal and agricultural uses, and defining a water right as a property right.
- Hanford Reach Heritage Center:** Support specific legislation to fund development of Hanford Reach National Monument Heritage and Visitor Center.
- Life Science Discovery:** Continued support of the Life Sciences Discovery Fund and its mission to promote life sciences research, enhance the competitive position of Washington State and improve the quality of and delivery of health care for the people of Washington.

County LEADERSHIP

Benton County Commissioners
736-3080
marilu.floures@co.benton.wa.us
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Robert E. Koch
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Frank Brock
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State LEADERSHIP

Legislative Hotline: Toll free **800-562-6000** On the web at www.leg.wa.gov • www.access.wa.gov



Jerome Delvin
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Mark G. Schoesler
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Jim Honeyford
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U.S. Senate
www.senate.gov



Maria Cantwell
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House of Representatives
www.house.gov



Doc Hastings
4th District U.S. House of Representatives (R)
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Governor



Christine Gregoire
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Brad Owen
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Federal LEADERSHIP