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## The Economic Development Resource for Oklahoma

OEDC strives to work hand-in-hand with legislative leadership in efforts to allow Oklahoma to remain competitive in recruitment, retention and growth of industry. Our **2010 Legislative Agenda** covers a wide variety of areas that are of importance to the business climate we represent. This legislative agenda was put together with careful thought and consideration of all 180+ members. Some items are revenue neutral, while others will require sources of funding and further research.

We realize that with the state's budget shortfalls, legislative leaders will be challenged more now than ever when making decisions on legislative issues. OEDC stands ready to assist and provide expertise when asked.

### Who are we?

The Oklahoma Professional Economic Development Council (OEDC) is an association of 180+ economic development professionals throughout the state of Oklahoma who support efforts to market the state, regions and communities as a place where people want to live, work and invest in Oklahoma.

Our members are advocates for a prosperous economy in Oklahoma and strive to be active economic development resources for state elected officials and leaders.

OEDC supports the efforts of the Oklahoma, Department of Commerce as the leading recruitment organization for the state of Oklahoma as well as the activities of the Governor's Economic Development, Marketing and International Teams. We also work closely with The State Chamber lobby team in developing, implementing and educating citizens about legislative issues in order to maintain a profitable business climate.



# 2010



## Legislative Agenda

**“The Economic  
Development Resource  
for Oklahoma”**

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### Economic Development Incentives

- Oppose attempts to sunset or eliminate necessary economic development incentives that are designed to create jobs and attract/retain businesses in Oklahoma in order to remain competitive with other states.
- Support tax credits for actual billable, legal and accounting services performed for a certified incubator tenant.
- Support Quality Jobs and Small Quality Jobs to simplify the program, rewarding the creation of better paying jobs and provide high impact incentives for mega projects while maintaining focus on smaller employers.
  - Moving equipment from existing business facilities (in or outside Oklahoma) needs to be applicable for the same investment tax credit that a new business moving to Oklahoma gets.
  - Extend the months to 24 months on the job creation and total sales thresholds to make Small Quality Jobs more applicable to small businesses.
- Support strengthening the criteria required for accessing Quality Investment funds.
- Protect the current objectives of Tax Increment Financing as a primary economic development tool.

### Workers' Compensation

- Oklahoma businesses want fairness in the workers' compensation system. A fundamental restructuring of the entire workers' compensation program is needed.

### Transportation

- OEDC opposes any attempts to delay/unravel the transportation and bond program passed in 2008, as well as legislation or constitutional initiatives that would re-direct funds from essential state functions, and erode the legislature's ability to craft a reasonable balanced budget.

### Water/Wind

- Water is a critical business resource. Support completion of the update of the Oklahoma comprehensive water plan, and make certain that it encourages and provides ample water for economic development.
- Establish a Renewable Energy Standard for Oklahoma

### Education and Workforce

- Support merit pay for educators and encourage the incorporation of career awareness programs into the common education system while lengthening the school year.
- Support post secondary education designed to enhance and improve Oklahoma's workforce.
- Oppose efforts (such as SQ 744) that constitutionally mandate specific funding levels tied to other state economies.
- Supports the development of a strong workforce by ensuring that Oklahoma's workforce delivery and training programs are the best in the nation.
- Support ongoing efforts of the entire education system (common education; institutions of higher learning; and career technology centers) and the business community to assure that what is taught in the classroom is relevant to Oklahoma's current and future workforce needs. Programs include, but are not limited to, Training for Industry Programs (TIP); Existing Industry Initiative (EII); and Safety and Health Training.
- Supports flexibility for childcare facilities that provide care to working Oklahomans receiving daycare assistance to be reimbursed when a child is absent. Also, have reimbursement rates based on hours for services provided rather than on a per-day basis.

### Closing Fund

- Support increased funding for a closing fund (Opportunity Fund) which would allow influential added incentives for companies which provide significant new employment in targeted industry sectors.

### Research and Technology

- Maintain OCAST funding with support of an appropriations request to fund a \$5 million Research Equipment Program, as well as designated funding for a seed capital fund.
- Continue to support a billion dollar Oklahoma Enterprise Research and Investment Endowment to fund and match grants for technology investments in leading edge technologies to help transform Oklahoma's economy. Oppose attempts to raid the fund to shore up general revenue.

### State Funding Assistance for Industrial Park

- Supports legislation to assist community owned industrial parks with short term loans for infrastructure construction and/or expansion. This loan fund would be available only to entities such as cities, counties, development trust authorities, and community owned economic development corporations. Lending limits would be set by the entities' ability to make debt service, with a five year maximum term.