



WEDA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2012

As Washington State's trade association for economic development, WEDA is committed to finding solutions to recruit jobs and private investment to our state, during these difficult economic times. To assist lawmakers with these goals, WEDA has adopted the following legislative priorities for 2012. These priorities focus on the most crucial actions that lawmakers can take to bring living-wage jobs, community revitalization and private investment to Washington State.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1) **Tax Increment Financing**

In evaluating Washington State's competitiveness relative to other states, the lack of a solid tax increment financing tool is perhaps our greatest weakness. Washington stands at a competitive disadvantage to **48 other states** that have tax increment financing. While it's true that Washington has had some TIF-like programs, these programs have only been available for a limited number of projects, when funding is available, after a selection process. What we lack is the certainty of a TIF tool that can be offered "up front" to recruit jobs and private investment.

2) **ADO Funding**

Washington's local economic development network has a long history of success. By bringing the public and private sectors together, business activity, private investment, jobs and government revenues are created. Continuation and support of these local efforts throughout Washington State is crucial.

3) **Return on Investment / Dynamic Fiscal Notes**

Return on Investment is the basic measure of success in the area of economic development. Washington's competition analyzes the return that is achieved through governmental action. The concept of ROI must be applied to the evaluation of economic development and community revitalization through fiscal note reform.

4) **Transportation Projects – Economic Development**

WEDA believes that economic development should be one of the criteria considered when evaluating a package of transportation projects. Specifically, what jobs would be created beyond the life of the project.

5) **Industrial Revenue Bond Authority**

WEDA supports legislation that would allow smaller economic development corporations to broaden the authority in the type of bonds that they can lend.

6) Support proposals that address WEDA’s Legislative Priorities

During these difficult economic times, WEDA has chosen to focus on statewide legislative proposals that would lead to the recruitment of jobs and private investment within a 24 month period. Therefore, WEDA will engage and work with other stakeholders on any proposal matching these criteria.

In addition to the above priorities, WEDA’s Legislative Committee identified some specific action items for the legislative interim that may result in the addition of other priorities. These action items include:

1) Streamlined Permitting for Washington Manufacturers

WEDA will continue to monitor the results of Governor Gregoire’s executive order and any conversations around legislation on this topic.

2) Prevailing Wage

WEDA will monitor the discussion around whether prevailing wages are determined by the location of where a project takes place or the location of the service provider’s business.

3) Aerospace Package

WEDA will engage in the conversation and support the outcome of legislation that is drafted to improve Washington’s aerospace competitiveness.

4) Meeting with Partner Organizations / Economic Development Stakeholders

WEDA will meet with its economic development partners and other stakeholders including the Department of Commerce, Association of Washington Cities, Washington Workforce Association and others to learn about their priorities for the coming legislative session and to work together on items that align with WEDA’s adopted legislative priorities.