



The Nampa Chamber of Commerce is committed to pro-business legislative policies that preserve and grow Canyon County's economy and its global competitiveness.

POSITION STATEMENT 2012

COLLEGE OF WESTERN IDAHO

The College of Western Idaho plays a vital role in the education of our citizens and the economic stability of Nampa.

- The College needs continued state funding to support the growing demand for an educated workforce; as well as moving a dozen technical programs and equipment from the Boise State University campus by 2012.

TRANSPORTATION

The Highway 55 Corridor from Nampa to Sunnyslope is inefficient, dangerous, and deadly, and needs immediate legislative and ITD board attention.

- **We support** the need for a "Bridge Program" from GARVEE savings to redo the Meridian Interchange Bridge. This Interchange will soon be the only place between Boise and Nampa where the Interstate reduces from four lanes to three each way.

AGRICULTURE

(See details on separate page)

BUSINESS STIMULUS/NEW JOBS CREATION

- **We support** a comprehensive study of and revisions to our state tax policy to encourage Idaho businesses to expand and/or bring new businesses to Idaho.
- **We support** elimination/ phase-out of the personal property tax

URBAN RENEWAL

- **We support** retention of the present Urban Renewal District laws of the State of Idaho. The Tax Increment Financing provided by the establishment of an Urban Renewal District gives municipalities an extremely valuable tool for advancing economic development as well as addressing urban blight.

STATE INSURANCE EXCHANGE

- **We support** legislative approval of a state Insurance Exchange.

Nampa & Caldwell Chambers of Commerce
2012 POSITION STATEMENT ON AGRIBUSINESS ISSUES
GENERAL STATEMENT

The Nampa & Caldwell Chambers of Commerce recognize that diversified agriculture is one of the major components of the economy of Canyon County, the State of Idaho, and the U.S. and therefore should be assisted to function in an atmosphere that enables it to compete profitably in worldwide markets. Agriculture is a base industry that remains stable in good or bad economic times and is an essential industry to Canyon County's economy.

LAND USE PLANNING

Land use planning should be used as a vehicle to ensure that agricultural practices may remain viable in the area. Land use decisions should consider multiple use and long term infrastructure requirements for all new development. Residential growth should develop from the city limits outward for efficient use of city services.

WATER RIGHTS

Water is a critical resource and is of primary economic importance and value to agriculture. We support due process in any allocation, control, or transfer of any water used for agricultural purposes under current water rights. Preservation of water and its associated infrastructure is necessary.

WEED & PEST CONTROL

Controlling noxious weeds and invasive species are essential agricultural practices and should be allowed with legally prescribed practices. We strongly support local efforts for education of the public, enforcement of weed laws, and control of noxious weeds and invasive species on all private, public land, and waterways. Control of these pests on state and federal land needs to be a high priority. We support efforts that will protect the public from West Nile Virus.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Recognizing that crop residue burning is a necessary agricultural practice for certain crops, we support the crop residue burning program. We support alternative methods to crop residue burning when possible to accommodate public concerns. Dairies are under intense scrutiny due to both air and water quality concerns. Continued research in the use of digesters, composting, and other technologies for the purpose of mitigating odor from CAFO's should be a high priority. Proposed air and water quality regulations need to be based on sound scientific data. Environmental impact studies of projects need to be streamlined to eliminate unnecessary excessive costs and time delays. (CAFO's = Confined Animal Feeding Operations)

ENERGY

We support the efforts of those companies who are endeavoring to provide necessary energy (traditional and alternative) for Idaho through new and existing sources as well as increasing our energy supply through expansion of current resources and the addition of transmission lines. We support public involvement in this process. We support the efforts of Idaho Power to obtain cost-effective re-licensing, through a stream-lined process, of the three dams in the Hells Canyon Complex and encourage the State of Idaho to provide assistance in achieving this critically important goal.

CROP PRODUCTION

Canyon County is a highly specialized diversified agricultural production area with numerous seed crops being produced for national and world-wide markets. We support the continued research efforts to enhance the economic base and provide for the future needs of the United States and the world.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation and transportation infrastructure are important to agriculture. We support efforts to improve the infrastructure and increase the weight limits of all trucks to 129,000 pounds provided that they are capable to safely carry the additional weight. We are also in support of "weigh-in-motion" concept to allow trucks to be certified once and not be required to stop at each weigh station.