

Today's Delegation

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PacificCorp

Donnie Boyd

Klamath County Commissioner

Derrick DeGroot

PKlamath County Commissioner

Col. Jeff Edwards

173d Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field

Wes French

Chamber Board President

Brian Gailey

Brian Gailey Photography

John Longley

Chamber Government Affairs

Chair

Kelley Minty Morris

Klamath County Commissioner

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Klamath County

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lead. Connect. Advocate.

2017 Legislative Priorities

The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, incorporated in 1905, is the oldest active business advocacy organization in Klamath County.

The 2017 Legislative Agenda represents the priorities of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce as represented by nearly 500 businesses located in or near Klamath County.

The vision of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is to promote and defend economic vitality and prosperity through leadership and advocacy. By doing this, we believe small businesses in our rural community will grow and support a healthy and needed economic recovery for our region.

This 2017 Legislative Agenda promotes Klamath County and similar rural counties facing the struggles and fears of being economically left behind and forgotten. Our desire is to be an overall economic asset where we contribute to the betterment of the state of Oregon.

The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is united on these issues facing our community:

- 1) Commitment to infrastructure improvements to Highway 97 creating a secure route of transportation corridor for products and disaster recovery in the event of a Cascadia event. Recommended improvements include:
 - Improving the pinchpoint and seismic reliability of the Link River Bridge near City of Klamath Falls
 - Improve passing lanes to 2-miles long with 5 minute intervals between passing lanes
- 2) Commitment to infrastructure improvements at Kingsley Field, home of the 173rd Oregon National Guard and only Department of Defense national training facility for the F-15 fighter jet
- 3) Commitment to infrastructure improvements at Crater Lake Klamath Regional Airport
 - Support of the COAR grant application (Critical Oregon Airport Relief Programs) for airport signage
 - Support ROAR funds (Rural Oregon Aviation Relief Programs) distributed directly to rural airports

"The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is committed to Klamath County by advancing its economic vitality and quality of life through the education, promotion and networking of our members"

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- 4) State business recruitment incentives focused on rural communities targeting large industrial companies.
 - Present specific opportunities (both current and upcoming) for Klamath’s recruitment/development. (e.g. Project Falcon)
 - Seek support as it relates to the latitude of which state incentives could be provided when it comes to infrastructure, workforce development, and taxation for such projects.
 - Discuss implementing legislation for cyber-security/electronic commerce zone(s) providing tax credits on specific business transactions.
 - 5) Improvements in the timeliness of DEQ waste water renewal permits to enable economic growth of rural Oregon.
 - Introducing Klamath County’s growing recruitment opportunities and the effects outdated permits have on both business attraction and retention/expansion, an issue that could negatively impact several Oregon communities (citing Chamber research).
 - Encourage creative/risk-oriented solutions as it relates to DEQ expediting the process for approval of NPDES permits, and concepts for implementing certain exceptions with protocol that takes into account circumstances related to benefits and quality of treated wastewater.