



Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Initiative on Economic Development

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

STATEMENT:

While Texas remains one of the few bright spots in the national economy, Texas business must continue to battle against big government legislation that threatens our standing as a global economic hub. Furthermore, Dallas/ Fort Worth, as the largest metropolitan area in the state, is directly linked to the overall economic wellbeing of the state. Every session, legislators craft bills that would put egregious restrictions on Texas businesses. The GDHCC will continue fighting against any and all proposals that would hinder business growth, economic development and reckless spending. During the 81st Legislature, the Chamber will continue to support removing barriers that hinder job growth in Texas.

MUNICIPAL POSITION STATEMENT

On the municipal level, the GDHCC is in support of further creating and facilitating the most prosperous and beneficial environment for local Hispanic business. The Chamber opposes any legislation, policy or new regulation that puts further burden on our area businesses' ability to grow and function successfully.

In addition to the metropolitan business climate as a whole, the Chamber seeks to enhance the conditions for Latino business within DFW specifically. The current role of DFW Latino owned businesses, with a total number now estimated at over 60,000 and increasing steadily at an average rate of 12% a year, is irrefutable. The GDHCC wishes to continue its longstanding role in this growth and in its economic health by seeking full and proper Minority and Women Owned Business initiative/goal participation as part of all relevant areas of City of Dallas dealings- procurement, employment, appointments, etc.

STATE POSITION STATEMENT

Policy on Business and Commerce

The Chamber supports the renewed and increased funding for the Texas Enterprise Fund, the Emerging Technology Fund, and the funding of the Texas Health Services Authority. The Chamber strongly supports a revisit and a revision to the business tax structure that will not negatively impact the small business community. Further, The Chamber supports a regulatory climate that does not impose hidden taxes on employers through excessive fees and fines and reduces excessive regulations to promote economic growth and job creation. The

Chamber supports continued efforts by the State to increase minority procurement levels with State Agencies as well as enforcement for those agencies in non-compliance.

Identity Theft

The Chamber supports the Legislature's efforts to strengthen laws to protect consumers from identity theft. The Chamber supports the passage of the "Identity Theft Protection Act" which will penalize those committing identity theft or obtaining or attempting to obtain another person's personal identifying information. The Chamber further supports "Identity Theft Protection Act's" inclusion of language that prohibits denying credit to, or reducing the credit limit of a person because he or she was a victim of identity theft.

Insurance Fraud

Support anti-fraud insurance legislation and enforcement that costs Texas businesses and individuals millions of dollars in the insurance marketplace.

Record Votes

Support the recording of legislative votes during and after floor debate in the Texas Legislature.

Sarbanes-Oxley

Oppose efforts to enact a "Sarbanes-Oxley" law on the state level. The federal Sarbanes-Oxley act of 2002 and subsequent regulations establish very stringent corporate reporting requirements and stiff penalties for corporate accounting fraud. It is completely unnecessary, and would be duplicative, to enact state laws as well.

FEDERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Strengthening U.S. Capital Markets for Entrepreneurs and Investors

Vibrant, Healthy Capital Markets Are Critical to Economic Growth U.S. capital markets competitiveness is declining due to:

- Strong Competition—foreign markets capable of supporting significant activity
- Excessive Litigation—a litigation system and environment that has run amok
- Bewildering Regulation—unnecessarily complex and overlapping regulatory systems

We Must Strengthen U.S. Capital Markets for Entrepreneurs and ALL Investors

- America needs a nimble regulatory system that can identify potential problems early and deal with them more quickly and efficiently—heading off a crisis before it occurs.
- Band-Aid solutions that will cause long-term harm to the economy are the wrong answer. We should not reward individuals or companies that made bad business bets, and Congress should not allow opportunistic special interests to take advantage of our economic crisis.
- Government must not seek to create a system that eliminates risk from the market and stifles innovation.

Higher Taxes—Bad for the Economy, Bad for Business

- The U.S. Chamber is committed to pro-growth tax policies that preserve America's global competitiveness. We oppose tax increases that take money away from consumers and businesses that could have been invested in new products, equipment, and employees.
- America has succeeded because we reward success and risk taking. Expanding the tax burden fundamentally undermines America's commitment to free enterprise.
- The last thing an uncertain U.S. economy needs is a large tax increase. For businesses, especially small and medium size, a tax increase during a soft economy could push many companies into bankruptcy.

Passage of a Commonsense Immigration Policy

- Immediate action is needed to address pressing visa shortages that are hurting businesses, especially in the H-1B high-skilled and the H-2B seasonal worker visa categories.
- America must have a comprehensive, rational, and balanced immigration policy that secures the borders, while welcoming legal immigrants who want to work towards the American dream and realistically addresses the undocumented workers already in the United States. It is also imperative that government work with businesses to create an employment verification system that is fast, accurate, reliable, and fair.
- Because no federal policy has been adopted, state and local governments are adopting hundreds of immigration rules and regulations that are often contradictory and impossible for businesses to comply with.

Creating American Jobs by Expanding Free and Fair Trade

Trade Benefits U.S. Workers, Farmers, and Families

- 12 million American workers and farmers depend on trade for their jobs (Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and International Trade Administration).
- 1 in 5 factory jobs depends on exports, and 1 in 3 acres on American farms is planted for hungry consumers overseas (U.S. Foreign Agriculture Service). Isolationism runs the risk of putting these Americans out of work.
- As American families work to make ends meet, trade provides lower prices and more choices when they shop.

Trade Agreements Offer a Fair Deal for American Workers

- 95% of consumers of American goods live outside of the United States, and they love American products. Booming exports generated more than a quarter of U.S. GDP growth in 2007, helping counter the downturn in the housing and finance sectors (U.S. Office of the Trade Representative).
- Many foreign countries still impose steep tariffs on U.S. exports, while the U.S. market is already open to imports. For American workers and farmers, that's just not fair.
- New trade agreements are the solution to this problem. By eliminating foreign tariffs and other barriers to U.S. exports, trade agreements create a level playing field for American workers and farmers.

The Chamber Position of Support for Trade

- Congress must pass trade agreements with **Colombia, South Korea, and Panama**.
- Until these agreements are approved, American workers and farmers will be forced to compete on an unfair playing field in these growing markets.

Card Check Legislation

- The Chamber opposes legislation allowing for abusive union organizing tactics, and challenges state laws that pressure companies to unionize.
 - The Chamber supports preventing the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, also known as card check. This measure, which would do away with the fundamental democratic protection of private ballots in union organizing elections, already has majority support in both houses of Congress. Other than a presidential veto, the only way to block this bill is to keep the unions from securing the 60 Senate votes they need to cut off a filibuster. Card check has the ability to expose workers to union intimidation and put employers at the mercy of federally appointed arbitrators who would dictate their first union contracts if the employer didn't agree to union decisions within a government-imposed time limit.
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Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Initiative on Transportation

TRANSPORTATION

STATEMENT:

To meet the needs and challenges of a Twenty-First Century Texas, our complete transportation infrastructure must be strengthened. Further development of our roads, bridges, railways and airways depends on a solid plan, built by sound transportation policy.

MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce supports the amendment to current law to allow an inland port, such as Dallas, to be considered a Port Authority, and to upgrade rail facilities from Houston to Dallas.

The City of Dallas, along with Dallas County, and the cities of Balch Springs, Cedar Hill, Desoto, Duncanville, Lancaster, Mesquite and Seagoville, have committed to developing an intermodal hub/inland port in the Southern section of Dallas County. To provide greater value-added service to the shipping and logistics industries (thereby increasing the potential employment and economic development opportunities.), upgrading the rail service and creating a state-recognized Dallas Port Authority is necessary. Houston is the state's busiest port; receiving 1.4 million twenty foot equivalent units (TEU) annually. The Port of Houston and the Port of Dallas have signed a MOU signifying the two entities' desire to work together, and upgraded rail service between Houston and Dallas. Establishing Dallas as a Port Authority will provide a coordinating entity for the Dallas Inland Port and allow the Port Authority to enter into agreements with other organizations.

STATE POLICY STATEMENT

The Texas economy could not be as successful as it has been without a strong transportation system that provides the movement of goods and services statewide with ease. Unfortunately, even as our state continues its growth, our transportation system is failing to keep up the pace.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 2008, ten of the fastest growing cities in the country are right here in Texas. At a population of 23.5 million and growing, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is building new roads to aid the current 80,000 miles of roadways that exist in the state today.

However, no economists, scientists or engineers could have anticipated the scale of the boom that Texas is currently experiencing. TxDOT estimates that in less than 25 years, the Texas population will increase by 12 million people. Total road use is projected to increase by 214 percent, with highway freight traffic estimated to increase by 77 percent.

Increasing our transportation capacity is a tremendous challenge for the state. The process of building a single new road requires a wealth of resources that includes – among other things – time, capital and manpower.

In specific, during the 81st Session, the GDHCC will move to preserve current and future funding tools for light rail, mass transit and inland port opportunities.

Investment in Surface Infrastructure

The Chamber supports increasing the state's annual investment in surface transportation infrastructure to help the Texas Department of Transportation respond to Texas' mobility needs.

International Trade Corridor

Support development and funding of international trade corridors to accommodate current and future Texas transportation demands resulting from the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Diversion of Funds to Non-Transportation Uses

Further, the Chamber supports a reduction in the diversion of transportation revenue to non-transportation uses and The Chamber supports the authority for metropolitan regions to enact a local option transportation tax with voter approval.

Trans-Texas Corridor Plan

Support Trans-Texas-Corridor-like plans consistent with free market principles. These innovative plans will significantly improve opportunities for economic development and job creation in Texas.

Improved Highways

Support improved highways, ports of entry and other infrastructures that facilitate trade, tourism and other cross-border traffic between Texas and Mexico.

Toll Roads

Support the construction of toll roads where appropriate. Users will directly pay for the new roads, and tolls will be dedicated solely to maintenance and new construction.

Outsourcing State Work

Support opening government monopolies to competition by comparing the cost of projects. If a business in the private sector can do the job better and at a lower cost than the state, then it should be outsourced.

Motor Fuel Tax Limitations

Support limitations on the use of motor fuel taxes, except for the constitutionally-required percentage used to fund our educational system, by reducing diversions to the fullest extent.

Regional Goals

Further, The Chamber strongly supports the continued funding of the Woodall Rogers Parkway project, Loop 9 project as well as the Trinity River projects. The Chamber supports action by the Texas Department of

Transportation to utilize smart growth planning when designing new highways and upgrading existing highways that keep in mind business' need for customer traffic.

FEDERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Increased Investment in Our Nation's Ailing Transportation Infrastructure

Our nation simply cannot reignite and sustain economic growth with a transportation system that is over capacity and marred by age and disrepair. Over the next 10 years, there will be an average \$50 billion annual gap in capital, operations, and maintenance funding to maintain our highway and transit systems (U.S. Department of Transportation).

An estimated investment of \$148 billion in expansion of rail freight infrastructure is needed just to keep pace with economic growth and ensure that the freight railroads can carry the volume of freight forecast for 2035. (Association of American Railroads)

The nation's air traffic control system faces a multiyear overhaul. The Federal Aviation Administration plans to invest \$4.6 billion over the next five years alone and estimates that at least \$41 billion must be invested in airport infrastructure over the same period.

Nearly 50% of the 257 locks on more than 12,000 miles of inland waterways operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are functionally obsolete (The Transportation Challenge: Moving the U.S. Economy).

We Support

The Chamber is urging states to protect dedicated transportation funds and spend the money on infrastructure, instead of diverting money to other programs. Within legislation, the chamber is urging Congress to shorten the time that it takes projects to move from idea to completion.



Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Initiative on Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH

STATEMENT:

The Texas Legislature will be under great pressure once again to solve a major challenge for many employers in Texas: health insurance. Finding a solution to provide affordable, accessible health care to all Texans is a difficult challenge, especially considering the estimated 25 percent of Texans that do not currently have health insurance.

Traditional, employer-sponsored health care is in danger. The increases in health care costs and premiums have outpaced the general rate of inflation, the rate of gross domestic product (GDP), and the rate of increase in median household income. In 2006, net premiums for the property/casualty insurance sector were up 4.6 percent from 2005. In comparison, life/health insurance premiums and annuity considerations increased 10.5 percent over the same period of time. Competitive forces, along with transparency, must be available to provide consumers the opportunity to make informed decisions in pricing and provider performance about their own health care.

Insurance rates and availability of insurance products are directly impacted by state regulations. In 2008, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission began its constitutional review of both the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) and the Office of the Public Insurance Counsel (OPIC). The Sunset Advisory Commission (SAC), is a division within the Texas Legislature to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in government agencies. The process is guided by a 12-member commission that reviews the policies and programs of more than 150 government agencies on a 12 year cycle. The predominant theme of the TDI and OPIC report was that while the Texas insurance market has improved overall, it is still not as healthy or working as efficiently as it should. The report proposed several recommendations that, if adopted, would significantly impact business.

While the upcoming session will open the door for both positive and negative changes in the realm of health care, the GDHCC's mandate will remain clear: cost increases for employer-sponsored health care or cost increases for hard-working Texans will not be acceptable.

MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the Parkland Hospital Bond and proper funding of our city's medical facilities, so as to insure proper care for Dallas citizens and proper facilities and technology for our physicians and healthcare providers.

STATE POLICY STATEMENT

High quality health care is a key component in recruiting businesses and talent to the greater Dallas area. To ensure our region remains competitive, the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber advocates for programs that (1) decrease the cost of health care to business and consumers, (2) increase the access of health care to all and (3) increase the quality of health care.

Affordability

Oppose any measure that increases costs for Texas employers and their employees and families. The high cost of health services and health insurance is a primary contributor to the number of uninsured and to the rising percentage of budgets that households, businesses and government spend on healthcare. Support measures that would increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health services and health insurance.

Access

Increase access and choice of healthcare programs by supporting market driven health policies that maximize consumer and public benefit and allow for the continuation of employer sponsored voluntary health care coverage. Encourage the establishment of programs that would allow employers a selection of the highest quality benefits and the lowest, most competitive prices.

Quality

Preserve quality in our health care system. Support legislation to provide a safe harbor for state-sponsored and private health plans to deny payment to healthcare providers for events for which the Medicare program denies payment to hospitals.

Administration

Support legislation to improve the administration of health care services through education of physician office staff, streamlining the process to enhance outcomes and lower administrative burdens, such as encouraging providers to submit claims electronically. To the extent that they do not do so already, also encourage insurance carriers and administrators to accept claims electronically.

Consumer-Directed Health Care

Support legislation to promote consumer-directed health care models. Encourage employees to be more involved in their health, and encourage education of employers and employees on actual health care costs and fees. Promote understanding of the maxim that a healthy employee and a healthy family create a productive workforce.

Contracting

Oppose legislation that restricts the ability of health insurers to negotiate contracts with physicians and providers.

Corporate Practice of Medicine

Support legislation to eliminate state prohibitions on the direct employment of physicians by hospitals and other providers of health services.

Liability

Prevent needless increases in cost and litigation through the expansion of any kind of medical liability. Support legislation to curb existing abuses and the filing of frivolous lawsuits.

Mandated Benefits

Oppose any additional mandates on employers providing health care.

Competency Restoration

The Chamber supports the continuation of the state's competency restoration efforts that restore cognitive and behavioral ability so that a defendant has a factual understanding of legal proceedings and a functional ability to assist the defense attorney.

Early Childhood Intervention and Vocational Rehabilitation

Further, the Chamber supports Early Childhood Intervention Services and Vocational Rehabilitation Services continued funding for both service programs. Early Childhood Services provides a home and community – based program of supports and services for eligible families and children ages birth through two years of age. Vocational Rehabilitation provides services for people with disabilities to assist in skills necessary to become productive members in the community.

FEDERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Better Health Care and Retirement Security

Skyrocketing health care costs are stifling the economy and financially devastating hardworking Americans. A healthy workforce is the backbone of a strong economy, but spiraling health care costs curb the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and constrain tight family budgets. Unless we deal with this problem, more companies and families will be forced to drop coverage, adding to the millions of Americans without health insurance. Rising health care costs are one of the top cost pressures for businesses of all sizes. Medical benefits make up the largest share (12.1%) of employer benefit costs (U.S. Chamber 2007 Health Benefits Study).

The GDHCC's Supports a Health Care Agenda:

To reignite and sustain economic growth, we must increase access to affordable health care coverage, improve efficiency, and realign the system to focus on keeping people healthy. The Chamber's health care reform agenda has five main elements:


- **Increased Access:** Strengthen employer-sponsored health insurance and make it more available—and affordable—to every worker. We support leveling the playing field for individual consumers, families, and small businesses to purchase coverage while protecting the benefits of a uniform federal regulatory system (ERISA).

- **Health Information Technology (IT):** Promoting and ensuring widespread adoption of interoperable Health IT—including electronic prescriptions and use of computerized systems to store medical records—will improve quality, lower costs, reduce medical errors, and help patients and doctors make better medical decisions.

- **Prevention and Wellness:** Incentivizing individuals and businesses to live healthier lifestyles could avert 40 million cases of chronic diseases and reduce health care costs by more than \$1 trillion (Milken Institute).

- **Consumer-Focused Health Care:** Congress should make account-based plans more attractive to small businesses by increasing flexibility and improving the transparency of cost and quality data so that Americans can shop smart for the best care.

- **Medical Liability Reform:** The Chamber supports health courts and other medical liability reforms that ensure fair damage awards, eliminate frivolous lawsuits, and lower the costs of health care in the United States.



Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Initiative on

Public Education

PUBLIC EDUCATION

STATEMENT: In our highly competitive, global economy, it is essential to the prosperity of our community and our state, that Dallas, Texas and the United States maintains and delivers a high quality education system.

MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT

On a local level, the Chamber supports an Increase in funding for Early Childhood subsidies for low/low moderate income parents and high school students citywide. Also, increase funding for training for caregivers to provide higher quality for all children.

The GDHCC supports further funding in the following areas:

- Invest in quality child-care, Head Start and pre-kindergarten programs to ensure school readiness.
- Maintain federal control of Head Start to ensure adequate educational opportunities for preschool children.
- Expand home visitation programs that focus on early childhood development and equip parents to teach their preschool children.
- Increase salaries and training of staff in child-care centers and elevate standards of care in child-care facilities.

STATE POLICY STATEMENT

The Chamber recognizes that a successful business community begins with education; our best economic forecast lies tied to our ability to provide a successful system of offering the opportunity for a fully educated society. In addition, the Chamber recognizes that success demands all parts of the education system to demonstrate efficiency and cooperative-efforts, flexibility and adaptability to the changing needs of our workforce and economy, and accountability to the taxpayers, the stakeholders of the system. To these regards, the GDHCC supports the following legislation:

Talent Development System

The Chamber supports legislation that encourages a talent development system within dynamic learning environments that generate growth and advancement opportunities for our students.

Matriculation to Targeted Education and Workforce

The Chamber supports legislation that encourages matriculation to higher education and success in the workforce, promotes enhancements in curriculum that fosters student mastery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Classroom Size Mandate

Support legislation that creates flexibility for school districts in the requirement that grades K through 4 is comprised of no more than 23 students to one teacher, allowing school districts to use the 23:1 mandate as a district average.

Dropout Prevention

Support measures that financially reward campuses for retaining students beyond the ninth grade.

Local Control

Support measures that give school districts the flexibility to meet the needs of their students.

Tax Incentives

Support legislative tax incentives to encourage business participation in education initiatives.

Top 10% Rule for College Admissions

Support reforms to the top 10% rule for college admissions that would also allow colleges to expand enrollment to include other criteria and special talents, including student leadership, musical virtuosity or special aptitude in math or literature.

Academic Excellence

Support excellence initiatives aimed at moving students from minimum expectations to maximum achievement. Support rewarding districts for students who achieve “commended performance” on TAKS and who complete the “distinguished achievement program” of more rigorous high school courses.

FEDERAL POLICY STATEMENT

If American companies are to compete and win in a worldwide economy, they need well-educated and well-trained workers. The Chamber believes that the best foundation for a competitive economy starts with an education and training system that gives American workers the skills they need for the jobs of the 21st Century.

An Improved U.S. Education System

America needs a quality education program that prepares students for the challenges—and jobs—of today and tomorrow. But our nation’s education system is falling short.

-30% of U.S. students fail to graduate from high school in four years—and the dropout rate is more than 50% for African-Americans and Hispanics (U.S. Department of Education).

-Many of those who do graduate from high school need remedial education—and many students are often unprepared for postsecondary education or the modern workforce.

The Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber supports the following education reforms:

America needs to change the way that it trains, pays, and evaluates teachers. Pay for performance and incentive pay should be the rule.

The bureaucratic culture that stifles learning in too many public schools should be replaced with a spirit of innovation through programs such as expanded learning time, early enrollment of high schoolers in college-level courses, online learning programs, and more charter schools.

Education does not end upon graduation, and workers of all ages who receive ongoing training will be productive and successful.

The Chamber supports legislation to double the number of graduating scientists and engineers within 10 years.



Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Initiative on Higher Education

HIGHER EDUCATION

STATEMENT: In Dallas’ growing community, education and research are the building blocks for a successful economy.

MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT

The GDHCC supports legislation establishing public higher education institutions in Dallas including the University of North Texas Law School, which will be located in the Old Municipal Building in Downtown Dallas, as well as a pharmacy school.

The Chamber recognizes paramount the significance of this first-ever public law school in the City of Dallas, and the effect it will have at bringing and keeping those seeking to join a highly-desirable workforce here in Dallas. Downtown is currently undergoing tremendous renovation and the first public law school in Dallas would be the anchor in the Harwood Historic District. The City has substantial funds available for renovations of the Old Municipal building. All City operations currently being conducted in the building will be moved into a new courts facility east of the building. An exhibit will be built underneath the building to display the site where Lee Harvey Oswald was shot.

The establishment of the first pharmacy school in Dallas will provide another mechanism to attract one of the faster growing fields across the nation. Pharmacists are needed in both community pharmacies, hospitals and other clinics. Currently there are five pharmacy schools in the state, located in Amarillo, Austin, Kingsville, and Houston. This addition will strategically place a pharmacy school in a region lacking this type of school, as well as close proximity to some of the finest teaching hospitals.

STATE POLICY STATEMENT

Regarding higher education, the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber supports reasonable regulatory and legislative oversight of the higher education system, coupled with clear statements of goals, expectations and accountability of results. Support collaborative approaches among Texas’ higher education institutions in research and development funding strategies, technology deployment and distance education in order to avoid duplication and waste.


Flagship Status

The Chamber supports the naming of an additional University to “Flagship” status. As the newest destination of private business, we see Dallas as the newest global business center in our hemisphere. In keeping, we support additional appropriations for our current institutions of higher education: The University of Texas at

Dallas, The University of North Texas, and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas. The Chamber also encourages the continued support of a law school in Dallas.

Minority Procurement

The Chamber supports a more rigorous minority procurement program for all of Texas' institutions of higher education. When institutions of higher education are failing to meet their minority participation goals, the Chamber supports an incubator program where the Chamber acts as a clearing-house for these institutions of higher education and private business.



Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Initiative on

Electric Utility

ELECTRIC UTILITY

STATEMENT: The Chamber supports maintaining customer choice in the Texas competitive market for electricity. The Chamber's position is that businesses, residents and government entities have benefited from innovative technologies, better prices, more environmentally-friendly plans and business rates as a result of the competitive market.

STATE POLICY STATEMENT

The Chamber supports the continued research and investment into clean, renewable energy sources. The Chamber's position is that through clean renewable energy sources, it encourages Retail Electric Providers, municipalities and co-ops to have a diversified portfolio when offering plans to customers. It further encourages power generation companies to find alternative energy sources and to reduce air pollutants.

Finally, the Chamber supports investments in environmentally compatible, eco-friendly equipment and technologies for all new and upgraded power generation facilities and for transportation distribution service providers.

FEDERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Global Demand for Energy Could Soon Outpace Supply, Threatening Our Economy and American Jobs

American economic prosperity is closely tied to the availability of affordable, abundant, and clean energy supplies. If we continue to restrict domestic production and refuse to build new energy infrastructure, jobs will be shipped overseas and America will be less competitive. Energy demand in the United States could grow by as much as one-third between now and 2030; it's growing even faster around the globe. Environmental issues—including global climate change—must be answered with commonsense solutions that harness technologies, promote economic growth, and achieve environmental benefits.

The Chamber Supports Policies That Increase Energy Supplies, Improve Energy Efficiency, and Protect the Environment

- The GDHCC believes that America has a historic opportunity to marshal its unrivaled talent, capabilities, and resources to develop energy solutions that will keep our nation secure, our economy growing, and our environment clean.
- We are urging the next president and Congress to work together and with states and U.S. businesses to:
 - Increase and diversify energy supplies from both traditional and renewable sources
 - Promote energy efficiency across all sectors

- Modernize and protect energy infrastructure, including electricity grids and pipelines
 - Reduce overly burdensome regulations that discourage investment and imperil our competitiveness
 - Address critical shortages of qualified energy professionals with innovative policies
 - The Chamber believes that climate change should be addressed as part of an overall energy strategy that balances a number of issues, including sustaining a healthy economy and harnessing:
 - Efficiency: We must encourage stronger action by energy consumers and producers to use fuel and power more efficiently by improving building designs and appliance standards and by improving our electricity and transportation infrastructure.
 - Technology: Government and businesses should promote investment in and use of new technologies that expand alternative energy and use traditional sources more cleanly.
 - Global Action: The United States should exert strong, inclusive global leadership to conclude a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol that emphasizes technology, efficiency, and flexibility and includes ALL greenhouse gas emitters.
 - Any measure imposing greenhouse gas reductions must be carefully synchronized with the reasonably projected commercial availability of the technologies needed to achieve such reductions. Government should not mandate what technology cannot yet deliver.
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Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Initiative on Water Resource Management

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

STATEMENT:

The Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce supports the continued funding of the 2007 State Water Plan's recommended water management strategies. While the Chamber is grateful for the two reservoirs that were gained during the past Legislative Session, we are well aware that unless there is an increase in conservation efforts and water reuse, we are still projected to have a shrinkage in water resource supplies within the next few years. As a result, the Chamber supports and encourages legislation that offers long term water solutions for the Dallas community.

MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT

On the local level, the GDHCC is supportive of the following City to State Initiative:

To Support Dallas' water supply strategies as identified by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and included in the 2007 State Water Plan.

STATE POLICY STATEMENT

In regards to water utilities, is asking to have the Texas Legislature embrace and financially support water conservation strategies identified by the Texas Water Development Board and included in the 2007 State Water Plan. Adequate state funding to implement water conservation initiatives should be provided by the State to the water supply entities.

The Chamber supports the protection of all designated viable reservoir sites of unique value for the construction of reservoirs and the elimination of unreasonable restrictions on interbasin transfers.

The GDHCC is in strong opposition to any legislation that would prevent the State or water providers from exercising their ability to follow water management strategies in the State water Plan.

*Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Initiative on
Telecommunications & Cable*

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE

STATE POLICY STATEMENT

The Chamber supports broadband availability for all Texans and encourages the legislature to maintain a competitive environment where investment is driven by market forces and is unfettered by government regulation that could impede the continued growth and the development of new technologies. A solution for broadband availability should include tax credits or other tax incentives to providers that build out in rural areas that are underserved by an existing broadband provider and public-private partnerships to provide broadband in those areas.

The Chamber recommends that the legislature commission an economic impact study to focus on the impact that digital piracy has had on movie producers and distributors, retailers, and other copy right holders of creative content.