



# BEAUFORT, SC

REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

THE FOLLOWING ARE STANDING POSITIONS TAKEN THROUGH THE CHAMBER'S BUSINESS ADVOCACY PROCESS. ALL POSITIONS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE CHAMBER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

### REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our membership supports prioritization of the following identified infrastructure needs:

- Implementation of traffic flow improvements on Lady's Island
- Expansion of Stormwater Infrastructure
- Resurfacing of Public Roads
- Hunting Island Beach Renourishment
- Creation of the Jasper Ocean Terminal

### QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

Support increased funding for higher education including technical colleges and work to align vocational training between our County's public high schools and the Technical College of the Lowcountry. Support the reconstruction of Act 388. Support Workforce Housing Initiatives, programs for transitioning military personnel to the local workforce, and the expansion of public transportation in Beaufort County.

### DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY

Support legislation that helps the region attract quality industry and jobs and to expand existing business. Advocate for streamlining the permitting process to reduce the costs of doing business and to eliminate uncertainty that stifles business growth and development. Support utility, internet and infrastructure improvements to ensure economic development sites are prepared for new business.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

Advocate for the continued recovery and beach renourishment of Hunting Island State Park from the impacts of Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma.

### TOURISM

Advance the growth of the \$1.3 billion tourism industry. The Chamber supports dedicated funding for tourism destination marketing, as well as the development of heritage and cultural tourism attractions in Beaufort County.

### MILITARY

Expand the Tri-Command's \$2.4 billion economic impact by lobbying to maintain and grow our military installations and protect them from encroachment. Work closely with local, state and federal leaders to retain jobs associated with the region's military installations, and work to support military families and improve their quality of life.



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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SETTING THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Maintain and grow opportunities for Beaufort County businesses.

Reduce the cost of doing business.

Increase the qualified workforce.

Manage growth and support infrastructure improvements so that the marketability of the area is not threatened.

