



HOUSTON/PEACH COUNTY BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2010

WHO WE ARE

THE PEACH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE PERRY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE WARNER ROBINS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Our combined membership that represents the largest business voice in Central Georgia, comprised of a diverse business community representing every industry. We recognize that the largest employer in our region – and indeed the largest industrial complex in our state – is Robins Air Force Base. We also recognize that the second largest employer in our region is the collective resources of small businesses of all types. Together, large industry and small, we are business people who recognize that quality education, outstanding employment opportunities, and a superior quality of life are the components of a bright future for the entire Houston & Peach County Region.

NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

REGIONAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

During September and October of 2009, members of the Peach County Chamber of Commerce, the Perry Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Warner Robins Area Chamber of Commerce were asked to identify what they believed to be the greatest challenges facing our region that they felt can and should be addressed by the Houston & Peach County Legislative Delegation in 2010. Among the most commonly identified needs were:

- The need to add both military and non-military on-base and off-base employment opportunities to our area, attracting technology, pharmaceutical and health related businesses, and more.

- The need to see G-RAMP through to completion.
- The need to continually plan for better traffic and transportation infrastructure.
- The need to be constantly prepared for the inevitable next round of BRAC.
- The need to meet the challenges of providing superior educational opportunities of all kinds throughout the region, and to have school systems that are second to none!
- The need to develop arts, culture and sports programs as both quality-of-life and employment priorities.
- The need for government to operate responsibly and with restraint when it comes to new taxes and regulation.
- The need to ensure that all parts of our region remain economically strong and healthy.
- The need to do something about spiraling health care costs.
- The need to develop further programs that preserve and protect the viability of small business.
- The need for regional cooperation on meeting all of these challenges.

OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SMALL BUSINESS PRIORITIES

- We **SUPPORT** responsible and reasonable legislation that would ease the regulatory burden and provide tax relief for small businesses where doing so would provide a boost to the ability of small business to create jobs and broaden our tax base.
- We will **SUPPORT** the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- We **SUPPORT** Legislation & Funding for capital construction for institutes of higher education, including funding for the capital construction for the Health & Wellness Sciences Center in partnership with Houston Healthcare
- We **SUPPORT** initiatives that will improve on standardized testing scores for the Middle Georgia area students
- We **SUPPORT** funding for K-12 education, including legislation consistent with the “Move On When Ready” program.
- We **SUPPORT** legislation & funding for Museum of Aviation
- We **SUPPORT** legislation & funding for adult education.
- We **SUPPORT** legislation positively impacting the Middle Georgia Work-Ready Partnership which supports workforce development for the Aerospace Industry and addresses RAFB critical workforce needs.
- We **SUPPORT** the creation of an exemption to the one-year residency requirement for Hope Scholarships for those civilian families moving to the Houston & Peach County Region as a result of the Installation Acquisition Transformation (IAT) at RAFB and other new missions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- We **SUPPORT** legislation positively impacting the viability and strength of Robins Air Force Base.
- We **SUPPORT** the development of the Georgia-Robins Aerospace Maintenance Complex (G-RAMP).
- We **SUPPORT** legislation that advances the efforts of the 21st Century Partnership.
- We **SUPPORT** all legislative efforts that foster a regional response to future BRAC's.
- We **SUPPORT** Georgia Economic Developers Association Legislative Agenda
- We **SUPPORT** Tourism Development Legislation that advances this important industry.
- We **SUPPORT** acquisition of land for industrial parks
- We **SUPPORT** Legislation & Funding for Georgia National Fairgrounds &

Agricenter.

- We **SUPPORT** the Go Fish Project
- We **SUPPORT** Legislation & Funding for capital construction for institutes of higher education
- We **SUPPORT** Legislation & Funding for Houston County Volunteer Medical Clinic
- We **SUPPORT** Legislation & Funding for Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition

QUALITY OF LIFE PRIORITIES

- We **SUPPORT** Certificate of Need (CON) Laws
- We **SUPPORT** Legislation & Funding of the Flat Creek State Park
- We **SUPPORT** Legislation & Funding for a Regional Trauma Center for South Georgia

*The Houston-Peach County Legislative Agenda
is a project of the following organizations:*

Peach County Chamber of Commerce

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Warner Robins Area Chamber of Commerce

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