

## **Sunbury/Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce Pro Business Advocacy Policy**

The following establishes a set of guidelines by which the Sunbury/Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce shall identify issues of importance to the business community as well as develop and advance pro business advocacy positions.

### **Committee Responsibility**

The Community Relations Committee, a standing committee of the Chamber, shall be charged with the primary responsibility to promote a positive and pro-active business environment in the Sunbury/Big Walnut area through the following activities:

1. Developing and supporting legislation and other governmental action which promotes a strong business climate and job growth opportunities.
2. Opposing legislation and other governmental action which inhibits a strong business climate and diminishes job growth opportunities.
3. Establishing productive relationships between business interests and public officials.
4. Providing forums to inform public officials and candidates for public office on issues impacting the business community.
5. Communicating official Chamber positions to the appropriate public officials prior to their action on the issue.
6. Endeavoring to hold public officials accountable for their actions and the resulting impact on the business community. This may be accomplished by the circulation of public official voting records to Chamber membership on any issue on which the Chamber has communicated an official position.

While the Community Relations Committee of the Chamber shall be charged with the above referenced responsibility to promote a positive and pro-active business environment, the Chamber is a non-partisan organization and shall neither endorse candidates for public office nor political parties.

### **Issue and Proposal Identification**

The Community Relations Committee shall identify issues and proposals which impact the business community through:

1. Member input. The Committee shall establish a means by which Chamber members may submit issues for consideration by the Committee. Issues for consideration must be presented in writing utilizing the "Request for Issue Advocacy" form.
2. Board member input. The Board of Directors of the Chamber shall submit issues for consideration by the Committee.

## **Advocacy Position Development**

Once an issue/proposal has been identified, the Community Relations Committee shall develop positions of the Chamber through the following process:

1. Collection of information:
  - a. The Committee shall gather the facts from proponents, opponents, members, public officials and other interested parties.
  - b. The Committee shall evaluate the potential impact of the issue/proposal on the business climate in the Sunbury/Big Walnut area by determining:
    - i. Who will be impacted?
    - ii. To what degree?
  - c. The Committee shall determine if the Chamber has the time and resources to successfully impact the outcome.
2. Measure the issue/proposal options against the Chamber mission statement.
  - a. The Committee shall encourage full participation by all Committee members to ensure a diversity of perspectives.
  - b. The Committee shall decide to develop positions on an issue based upon a consensus of the Committee.
  - c. The Committee shall not advance a position without approval by a majority of the Chamber Board members.
3. Establish formal public policy positions of the Chamber through development of position statements.

## **Statements of Position**

The Committee shall develop statements of position once a policy issue has been identified by the Committee and approved by the Board. Statements of position shall contain:

1. Issue Statement – a brief explanation of the issue, including the proposed ordinance, bill, resolution, etc.
2. Proponents Objective – what is the purpose of the proposed action.
3. Stakeholders – who will be impacted.
4. Chamber Position – Does the Chamber support, partially oppose, oppose, not oppose, partially support or express its status as an interested party.
5. Rationale – State primary reasons for Chamber’s position.
6. Recommendation – State the recommended method of advocacy to influence the desired outcome.

## **Methods of Advocacy**

The public policy positions of the Chamber may be advanced by the following means:

1. Education of appropriate public officials as to the Chamber’s position.
2. Expression of Chamber’s position to the Chamber membership, and if deemed necessary, a request for member contact with appropriate public officials.
3. Publication of Chamber’s position.