Pullman Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda 2023

# Business Impacts

**Long-Term Care:** We support full repeal of the new Long Term Care tax. The benefit does not meet the need and program is already underfunded.

**Energy Strategy**: To assist economic recovery, we support a diverse and resilient energy portfolio that includes natural gas, hydro and nuclear as well as delayed implementation low carbon fuel standards and cap and trade. We support decisions being made at the legislative level and not at an appointed level. The Washington State Building Code Council should not be able to bypass the elected leaders to make rules and regulations unchecked.

**Taxation and Regulation:** 

**Emergency Powers:** We support efforts to limit the length of Governor’s emergency power to require legislative action during extended emergencies.

**Housing:** We support removal of burdensome eviction restrictions and rent control laws.

**Childcare:** We support measures that make childcare more accessible and affordable.

**Minimum wage:** We **s**upport non-indexed small business minimum wage solutions.

# Community

**Airport Terminal:** We support efforts to complete the airport terminal and develop additional routes and services.

**Economic Vitality:** We support community-wide economic vitality efforts which include the downtown initiative.

**Broadband:** We supportcontinued funding **to e**xpand reliable broadband for our region.

**Transportation:** To improve safety, we support additional Hwy 26 passing lanes and for WSDOT to complete a Hwy 195 south of Pullman safety study.

**Community Resources**: We support adequate state funding and support for our schools, hospital, first responders and 911 dispatch. Full funding of mandated programs.

**Trail utilization – Rail Banking**: We support rail banking the entire rail system within Pullman city limits so they can be better utilized by the community.

**Health Care:** To reduce health care personnel shortages and increase access, we support reciprocity of healthcare certification for needed professions and ongoing support for a local residency program.

**Taxes:** We oppose any personal income tax including capital gains.

**Policing:** We support reevaluating the unintended consequences of eliminating vehicle pursuits and consider allowing vehicle pursuits to promote a great public good in certain circumstances. We support reassessing the “Blake Ruling” on drug possession offenses and increase penalties to motivate offenders to seek treatment after the first drug possession offense.

**Water:** We support the work of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee in ensuring a stable, long-term, quality water supply for Pullman. Further, we encourage the legislature and state agencies to adequately fund and support these efforts.