



10 Legislative Initiatives in 2009-10 To Generate Jobs on the Road to Prosperity

Get the Economy Moving

Avoid new costly mandates, fees or taxes on business in returning Tennessee companies to full competitiveness and in creating prosperity for its citizens. Manage the state budget conservatively while fostering economic development and job creation.

- 2010:**
- In anticipation of more than a \$1 billion state budget shortfall, prevent attempts to supplement tax revenue with new or expanded business taxes.
 - Protect the property tax definition of rent liability for businesses.
 - Ensure property tax assessments are clear, concise and fair to business with no bias to benefit local governments.
 - Prevent combined reporting.
 - Evaluate proposals requiring filing on a "single-entity" basis for the state franchise and excise tax.
 - Protect key business, industrial machinery and raw goods sales tax exemptions.

Put Education First

Prioritize education, fostering a better educated and skilled workforce, and expand charter school options for Tennessee families because prosperity depends on an educated workforce.

- 2010:**
- Protect implementation of the Tennessee Diploma Project.
 - Advocate for greater accountability in Tennessee's higher education systems to improve efficiencies and graduation rates.
 - Ensure adequate BEP funding.
 - Protect investment in Pre-K and advocate the benefits of early childhood education and services.
 - Improve college completion rates.

Enact Legal Reform

Protect Tennessee's business climate with comprehensive legal reform that includes caps for product liability, punitive and non-economic damages, and medical malpractice. Start legal reform by ensuring that both citizens and companies have fair input into the judicial selection process

- 2010:**
- Ensure the state Consumer Protection law is fair and balanced to businesses.
 - Oppose efforts to negatively alter revamped Judicial Selection Process.

Protect Workers' Comp for Employees and Employers

Guard Tennessee's workers' compensation law by keeping it adaptable to a changing workplace. Define key elements such as recreational/wellness, telecommuting and physician communications. Ensure workers' comp remains a non-adversarial system, free from fraud, serving the employee and employer in a cost-effective manner.

- 2010:**
- Protect against any expansion of injury definition and increased compensability.
 - Limit pain management injury claims to no more than two years after maximum medical improvement.



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Stabilize the Unemployment Insurance Fund

Maintain the integrity and stability of the unemployment insurance fund in the most responsible and cost-effective way, ensuring that it is used only for the current statutorily intended purposes.

- 2010:**
- Protect the integrity of the fund and unemployment benefits for our employees while ensuring frugal and prudent management of the fund and utilization of available resources, including reduction of fund costs.

Create Fairness in Campaign Contributions

Allow companies and organizations, who should enjoy the same rights as individual citizens, to contribute and participate in Tennessee's political process using enforced contribution limits, open reporting standards and stiff penalties for non-compliance.

Safeguard Employee Rights

Prevent organized labor from taking away an employee's right to work or the right to a secret ballot. Strengthen Tennessee's right-to-work laws, and prevent public sector union contracts.

- 2010:**
- Ensure Tennessee maintains its right-to-work state status.
 - Monitor, communicate and lobby federal anti-business, pro-labor initiatives.
 - Protect against any Jobs Killer bills.

Meet our State's Infrastructure Needs

Achieve transportation and infrastructure investments in a fiscally and economically responsible way helping businesses to grow and expand while transporting goods and people in a sustainable, safe and efficient manner.

- 2010:**
- Ensure Congress addresses transportation infrastructure in a comprehensive manner, including support for expedited consideration of SAFETEA-LU.

Improve Health Care Availability

Increase health care availability and control costs through technology, innovation and transparency.

- 2010:**
- Prevent cost-adding health care mandates.
 - Support meaningful healthcare reform at the federal level that lowers costs for business while creating a better healthcare system. Monitor federal healthcare proposals and communicate to membership grassroots.

Conserve Energy and the Environment

Advance the role of business as leaders in conservation and environmental compliance.

- 2010:**
- Maintain current waste disposal programs to provide appropriate and affordable means to dispose of industrial waste.
 - Stop attempts to place restrictions more stringent than federal on coal mining.
 - Defend 2009 "wet weather conveyance" legislation.
 - Ensure any potential fee proposals are based on appropriate analysis.
 - Support allies in federal legislation and regulation related to greenhouse gases and climate change.
 - Ensure rule promulgation considers impacts on industry, jobs, economy and property owners.

