



GUIDELINES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Background

1. The creation of jobs and wealth through expansions of existing companies and the attraction of new business activity to develop a diverse business environment are central to Colorado's long-term prosperity, protection against economic downturns, and maintaining a high quality of life.
2. An essential function of all levels of government is to foster a positive business climate throughout the state wherein business can thrive, and to assist with local and regional economic activities.
3. Various economic development partners and the business community have come together to create a collaborative county economic development and marketing plan. (BID, DATO, Chamber, Alliance, Region 9, SBDC), to support the economic interests of Durango at the state and federal level.
4. The Durango Chamber of Commerce believes that economic development occurs best in a highly cooperative and supportive partnership between the public sector and the business community.
5. Business needs the following to grow: an excellent infrastructure (including transportation infrastructure), a superior educational system and workforce training, reasonable taxes and fees, and entrepreneurial opportunity and success.
6. Business needs a consistent and stable regulatory environment to continue to invest and create jobs.
7. Durango and La Plata County is an important regional hub for multiple products and services which are major economic drivers in the local economy.
8. The Chamber is in a unique position to provide support for policies that encourage quality job opportunities and increased income in La Plata County.
9. Tourism provides a positive stimulus to the local economy.
10. Energy and mineral development are strong economic drivers in the regional economy.
11. Growth in the economy increases tax revenues at the state and local level and allows government to fund the programs and services that are necessary and desired by citizens
12. La Plata County is a significant contributor to the State's overall economic well being and budget.

Guideline Statement

The Chamber's Economic Development policy is also reflected in other specific Chamber policies: The creation, attraction, retention, and expansion of primary businesses create jobs and increase wealth for the community and state. We support quality education, work force development efforts; encourage a predictable and rational tax structure; the removal of tax policy that discourages business investment; infrastructure improvements; and support for other laws, ordinances, and regulations that encourage private initiative, individual incentive, competitive enterprise, and which make our community competitive.

The Chamber Supports

1. A regulatory climate that is balanced, consistent, and predictable, making it easier for business to grow and thrive in the state and municipalities.
2. Programs, initiatives, tax incentives, and the elimination of disincentives that increase the cost of doing business.
3. Initiatives that provide and expand workforce competencies, including career and technical training, to students in the educational system.
4. A delivery mechanism for workforce training including the needs of a non-English speaking workforce.
5. Provisions for appropriate assistance to local businesses in their retention and expansion efforts.
6. Making capital funds available to new or expanding businesses.
7. Streamlining of all business permitting processes.

The Chamber Opposes

1. Weakening of tax incentives to business.
2. Overly burdensome and lengthy local permitting processes.