

Taking Care of Business

A business climate that invites investment and encourages the creation of jobs is not automatic. A political system that understands that business not only needs to make a profit, but should be allowed to keep it, is not part of the constitution.

These attitudes take work.

This is the work of the

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Government is necessary to the function of an open market. Rule of law, infrastructure and educating the workforce of the future are essential government functions. **As the voice of business, the Chamber works everyday** to make sure that the rules and regulations are workable and reasonable.

The key is balance. Your best voice on the issues that affect EVERY business is the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Your financial support of the Chamber will help keep government working for you as a business taxpayer, rather than working you over.

The South Dakota Chamber has a very credible relationship with both state government and the legislature. We are all working together for South Dakota's future.

-Brad Wheeler, President — Wheeler Manufacturing Company, Lemmon

Taking the Lead in the Legislature

During the past year, the Chamber was a leading advocate on the following issues:

- Keeping sales/use tax from being applied to equipment purchased for rental. (Taxes are collected on the rentals themselves.)
- Helped stop the repeal of the exemption that keeps sales/use taxes from being applied to exports when customers pick up goods using their own trucks—South Dakota needs to promote exports, not tax them.
- Worked to keep property tax reforms from unfairly shifting taxes to businesses.
- Unemployment Insurance—The SD Chamber has extensive expertise in the UI system and has lead efforts to make sure reforms were reasonable for businesses (including working to preserve the ability for businesses to earn a UI rate of “zero”).
- More UI reforms—the Federal government is offering funds to help with the trust fund but they come with requirements to change the UI benefits system. The Chamber is analyzing these changes and will be a strong voice to make sure they don't cost businesses too much in the future.
- Changes in initiatives—Increasingly threats to the state's business climate are not legislative, but on the ballot. This year the Chamber supported laws changing the signature deadlines and making sure out-of-state groups can't hide money used for campaigns.
- **During the 2008 election**, the Chamber was key in defeating Initiative #10 which was a “Gag Law” that would have locked business leaders out of the political process.

Activity Related to Legislative Sessions

Among the benefits of membership in the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

- **Pre- and Post- Legislative Meetings**—hear about issues in advance and what happened when it's over in detail with answers to your questions.
- **Capitol-ism Bulletin**—throughout the session receive one of the most widely read bulletins featuring analysis on tough issues and updates on the most urgent issues.
- **Business Day at the Legislature**—see first hand how the system works. Hear detailed briefings and be part of the annual **Business Caucus**—address critical issues with instant results which are shared with legislators and the Governor.
- **Legislative Handbook**—Know all the legislators with email addresses and key dates for the session.

Other Programs of the SD Chamber of Commerce & Industry

- **Youth Business Adventure**—a week long, campus based program teaching young people and teachers about business. They run a business simulation and meet industry leaders.
 - **Giant Vision Entrepreneurship Awards**—In partnership with Governor Rounds, this is the only statewide competition to encourage new business ventures. Top prize is \$20,000.
 - **Annual Economic Outlook Seminar**—learn about the South Dakota economy and topics related to business needs such as demographics, housing trends and new investments.
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Application for Membership

Business Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

Type of Business _____

Website: _____

Number of Employees: _____

OR

*Deposits for financial institutions: _____

Full-Time Employees	Dues
1-10	\$325
10-20	\$350
21-30	\$415
31-40	\$475
41-50	\$565
51-60	\$690
61-70	\$820
71-80	\$945
81-90	\$1,030
91-99	\$1,130
100-500	\$1,185 (+ \$5/employee over 100)
500+	\$3,150 (+ \$3/employee over 500)

* The base investment is \$175 plus \$3 for each million dollars of deposits.

83% of your membership dues is tax deductible.

Send your check payable to:

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry
PO Box 190
Pierre, SD 57501-0190

The South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Taking Care of Business...

Membership in the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry will place these business tools into your hands:

- A strong, united voice in the Legislature
- Up-to-the-minute information on legislative issues
- Up-to-the-minute information on regulatory issues
- Leadership in economic development issues
- Access to legislative information
- Access to South Dakota's key decision makers
- Statewide political involvement
- Business networking opportunities
- Assistance in meeting regulatory challenges

I belong to the Chamber for two main reasons. First, through Youth Business Adventure, the Chamber runs the premier business camp for high school students in America and shows them that the South Dakota Business grass is very green. Second, the State Chamber watches out for my business's interest in Pierre, which means I don't have to. David Owen makes sure I know about legislative issues that may affect my business now and in the future.

Bill Shorma, President
Shur-Co, Yankton

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South Dakota
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY 



P. O. Box 190
Pierre SD 57501-0190
(605) 224-6161
800-742-8112
www.sdchamber.biz
contactus@sdchamber.biz