

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
Committee Goals 2012

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

Jake Goering, Chair  
Shawn Gillen, Co-Chair

**Goals for 2012**

*With a goal of serving as the lead organization in public affairs and keeping Chamber members informed and represented on local, state and national governmental issues of importance, the Government Affairs Committee recommends the following strategies:*

**Review** and make recommendations concerning the Minnesota Chamber's 2012 Legislative Policy Positions.

**Establish** the legislative platform for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce; including but not limited to:

- exchange of federal forest land for State school trust lands land locked in the BWCA;
- accountability for Federal Forest Plans;
- environmental permit streamlining;
- increased timber harvest;
- support of ferrous and nonferrous mining industries; including but not limited to ESSAR Steel Minnesota LLC, Magnetation and Polymet;
- monitor healthcare reform;
- monitor US Chamber efforts especially in regard to Cardcheck and Climate Change Legislation;
- monitor energy and tax policy.

**Participate** in conference calls with the Minnesota Chamber and other local Chambers during the legislative session to discuss current issues and keep updated.

**Host** forums / seminars and informational meetings as needed to keep Chamber members informed of local, state and national issues. The forums will include a pre and post legislative "Eggs & Issues" with our local legislators.

**Represent** the Chamber business community on public policy and community issues that will have an impact on our area and on Chamber members.

**Maintain** regular contact with and provide direction to legislators regarding the issues relevant to the Chamber and its members.

**Monitor** implementation of area municipal and county land use plans.

**Host** the Chamber's Transportation Taskforce.

**Advocate** for infrastructure improvements that will enhance major economic development initiatives while protecting the environmental integrity of the Grand Rapids Area.

**Support** efforts of other communities; such as, initiatives to reduce assessments.