

Committee Purpose

To ensure Chamber members are informed, engaged, and represented on local, state, and national governmental issues that impact our region's economy and quality of life.

Support forestry sector and evolving forest industries, including SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) and woody biomass innovations.

Support ferrous and nonferrous mining industries, including Green Iron, gases, and helium

Support tourism-related initiatives that drive economic activity, visitor experience, and strengthen the region

Support updates in legislation regarding sulfate regulations impacting manufacturing and municipalities.

Support energy transition and power generation, including efforts to lift the nuclear moratorium.

Support a comprehensive state bonding bill that invests in critical local infrastructure.

Monitor legislation impacting healthcare, with attention to rural healthcare access, quality, and sustainability.

Monitor and provide input on downtown projects and the Highway 2/Highway 169 projects.

Monitor UP/NS railway developments as part of transportation and freight movement.

Monitor tax policy, with special interest in:

- Proposed reductions to PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)
- State cost shifts to local taxpayers following federal cuts

Monitor labor law changes, including Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFMLA).

Advocate for improvements and innovations in public transportation and transportation of goods, including engagement with the Range Gateway Coalition.

Advocate for policies and initiatives that enhance economic development while protecting the environmental integrity of the Grand Rapids Area (land use and planning).

Advocate for environmental permit streamlining balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship.

Advocate for responsible management of School Trust Lands and minerals to provide maximum benefit for education.

Advocate for regional efforts to increase the tax base in ways that strengthen communities and local services.

Advocate for accountability in public land and forest management practices

Advocate for seasonal recreation/property tax policy to supports our local school districts

Promote innovative rural education initiatives across the full education spectrum

Promote initiatives that strengthen workforce development, including talent recruitment and retention, workforce, housing, and childcare needs.

Review and make recommendations on the Minnesota Chamber's 2026 Legislative Policy Positions, including State Chamber Federation initiatives.

Represent the Chamber business community on public policy and community issues impacting our area.

Maintain contact with legislators, providing input on issues relevant to the Chamber and its members.

Participate in conference calls with the Minnesota Chamber during the legislative session.

Host forums, seminars, and informational meetings as needed to keep Chamber members informed on local, state, and national policy issues.

Host session-related luncheon events with local legislators to inform members on priority issues and outcomes.

Serve as an ex-officio member with the Downtown Business Alliance.