
I. Advocating for public policies that will foster the retention and expansion of existing Wisconsin businesses and farms and increase overall productivity.

Wisconsin has long been a leader in manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism. These sectors will continue to provide hundreds of thousands of jobs in the future, but their long-term sustainability must be ensured. Wisconsin is also poised to capitalize on the emerging high tech, bio-tech, and business services clusters to garner more high paying jobs for the state.

CWI will support public policies and private sector initiatives that:

A. Enhance existing industry clusters such as agriculture, manufacturing, paper, forest products and tourism.

Strategies:

- Promote the regulatory reforms included in Job Creation Act I & II.
- Provide tax incentives for modernization and job growth.
 - o Fiscal impact: In the 2007-2009 biennial budget there is a provision that would create a Dairy Processing Facility Modernization tax credit that would cost the state \$1.2 million
- Provide quality infrastructure to transport products, keep families and workers safe, and provide tourists easy access to Wisconsin.

B. Expand emerging industry clusters such as high-tech, bio-tech, business services, and IT-enabled services.

Strategies:

- Promote State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) funds be available for start-up and designated-growth companies.
- Require the \$180 million that SWIB has committed to four venture capital firms be allocated by January 1, 2009. Currently only \$77.7 million of the \$180 million has been allocated.
- Create a taskforce to study SWIB's entire Wisconsin investing profile.

C. Reduce the overall tax burden paid by Wisconsin citizens by expanding the tax base through the creation of more high-paying jobs.

Wisconsin's overall tax burden remains the number one concern for residents and a major consideration for businesses deciding whether to relocate or start-up here. Wisconsin's top priority should be getting its fiscal house in order by holding the line on state spending increases,

paying off debt, growing the Rainy Day Fund and reducing property taxes in line with neighboring states.