

State Legislative Priorities for 2018

The North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, CVB urges the SC General Assembly and in particular our legislative delegation representing North Myrtle Beach, to consider the following positions adopted by our Board of Directors, regarding issues of importance to our business community.

Tourism – *Grow Our Premier Destination Market*

We support:

- Opposition to adopted proviso which allows for the redirecting of restricted A-Tax funding at the local level, or any new legislation that might allow the redirection of these funds specifically those 30% funds currently restricted for out-of-area marketing.
- Strengthening the powers and duties of the existing Tourism Expenditure Review Committee (TERC) as it relates to oversight of how A-Tax dollars are expended by municipalities and DMO's at the local level. Reporting of the committee's business should also be more frequent and timely.

Workforce Development – *Fill the Workforce Pipeline*

We support:

- Workforce development priorities identified by the SC State Chamber, including growing apprenticeship opportunities, focusing on becoming the home choice for veterans leaving the service by fully exempting military retirement benefits, expanding policies to reintegrate ex-offenders into the workplace, shrink the skills gap by working with K-12, higher education and other partners, focus on soft skills development for students, and address the growing prescription drug and opioid epidemic.

Taxes – *Make Our Tax System More Competitive*

We support:

- Lower property taxes for businesses (currently some of highest in the nation)
- Reducing income tax burden on state's workforce making us more competitive in the Southeast.
- Streamline the business license fee system and make process more uniform while minimizing fiscal impacts to municipalities.

Energy – *Assure a Sustainable Economy*

We support:

- Ensure sufficient protections are in place for ratepayers.
- Alternative energy research and development, in particular wind and solar.