



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL

**Ontario Chamber of Commerce
500 East "E" Street
Suite 200
Ontario CA 91764**

**Thursday, October 11, 2007
9:30am – 10:30am**

Presiding: Bob Cruz, Chair

Call to Order

Chair's Report

- *GAC Voting Membership*

President & CEO Report.

- *Washington DC Fly In Results*

Legislative Representative Updates

Agenda Items

1. **September 2007 GAC Minutes** **ACTION**
2. **2007 Policy Platform** **ACTION**

Next GAC Meeting: Thursday, November 8, 2007

Announcements

Adjourn

GAC Voting Membership

The following GAC voting member serves from May 10, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

Bob Cruz, Chair
The Gas Company

Sonny Rosales
Merrill Lynch

Sandra Elrod
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Peter Synn
Enterprise Rent-A Car

Cindy Anderson
BAE Systems

Patti Arldt
Metropolitan Water District

Cid Pinedo
Chaffey College Foundation

Maria Tessoro Fermin
LA/Ontario International Airport

Steve Harrington
County of San Bernardino

Jack Storrusten
Daily Bulletin

GAC Staff:

Mark Smiley
President and CEO

Shaun Lumachi
Director of Government Affairs

WASHINGTON DC FLY IN RESULTS

Ontario Businesses Go to Washington

The Chamber invested in a trip to Washington DC to meet face-to-face with Ontario's congressional delegation. The group of business leaders charged themselves with looking for ways to improve Ontario's business climate in the areas of international trade, transportation, and healthcare.

"The trip proved invaluable face time with our federal legislators on issues impacting our businesses," stated Jennifer Resch-Silvestri, Chairman of the Board. "We set a precedent for our Chamber establishing a firm foundation for more robust advocacy and a stronger political voice," continued Resch-Silvestri.

The Chamber sat down with Congressman Gary Miller and a representative of Congressman Ken Calvert to talk about the increasing healthcare costs and its impact on small business. The Ontario Chamber believes the affordability of health care is eroding the ability of Ontario small businesses to afford health insurance.

Premiums continue to increase dramatically, causing an unsustainable burden. Today, the average cost of family coverage in California is over \$10,000 annually, with the average business paying for 72% of those costs. With costs out of control, more and more families are losing their health insurance coverage. Furthermore, any employer mandates will only result in lower wages, layoffs, and the continued erosion of our businesses to compete in the global marketplace.

The Chamber sat down with Congressman Joe Baca and a representative of Congressman David Dreier to talk about current regulations on the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Specifically, regulations on port trucks that force them to only operate on alternative fuel. The Chamber believes this could disqualify thousands of owner operator drivers whose living depends on port business. In an effort to find solutions in our discussions, the Chamber discussed ways of improving rail infrastructure and its operational efficiencies so that traffic congestion can be reduced throughout our region.

The Chamber encouraged Baca and Dreier's staff to support innovation in the area of reducing congestion on our freeways. Near-dock facilities, such as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe's (BNSF) proposed project will reduce over 1 million truck trips off our freeways and is an important project that will improve the movement of goods throughout the Inland Empire.

"Chaffey College is committed to training the future of Ontario's workforce," stated Ciriaco "Cid" Pinedo, Executive Director the Chaffey College Foundation and one of the business leaders who attended the Chamber's trip to Washington DC. "The Chamber's effort allowed me to join business leaders in discussing healthcare, international trade and transportation and their impact on the people we serve at the college," continued Pinedo.

"In the end, we invested time and resources to build a lasting relationship with key policymakers that impact the economic vitality of our region," stated Mark Smiley, President/CEO of the Ontario Chamber. "Healthcare, trade and transportation impacts us all. We will work with our congressional delegation in 2008 to find the solutions to these important issues."

Ontario Businesses Meet with Schwarzenegger's Team in Washington DC

Healthcare, transportation and education were the tops of discussion in a private meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger's legislative team in Washington DC. The Ontario Chamber met with the Governor's Washington DC people to discuss issues that impact Ontario business.

"We are committed to working with our Governor and his team in Sacramento and in our nation's capitol to fight for the interests of our business community," stated Mark Smiley, President/CEO of the Ontario Chamber. "Working together we can help protect the economic vitality of our region," Smiley continued.

Ontario business leaders briefed the Governor's staff on the Chamber concerns regarding the affordability of health care. The Chamber believes the eroding ability for small businesses to afford health insurance will translate into fewer jobs in our city and throughout the region. The Governor's staff remained committed to working with the Chamber in securing federal funding and easing regulations on business as it relates to healthcare.

Ontario business leaders also urged the Governor's staff to support federal legislation that promotes innovation in the area of reducing congestion on our freeways. The Chamber discussed innovations such as the privatization of our transportation system through the expansion of toll roads. The Chamber believes that future funding to ease traffic gridlock is limited. Therefore, the expansion of our toll roads might bring the needed relief in the near future.

"We are impressed with the Governor's staff in Washington DC," stated Jennifer Resch-Silvestri, Chairman of the Board. "They are proactive, positive and committed to representing the interests of all Californians. We look forward to working with them to bring positive changes to Ontario and California," continued Resch-Silvestri.

SEPTEMBER 2007 GAC MINUTES

Government Affairs Council
September 13, 2007
9:30 a.m.

- I. In Attendance: Bob Cruz, Sonny Rosales, Peter Synn, Cindy Anderson, Patti Arldt, Jack Storrusten, Mark Smiley, Shaun Lumachi, Sondra Elrod, Stephanie Palomar
- II. Dignitary Representatives: Josh Candeleria, County of San Bernadino, Deputy Director
- III. Meeting called to order - Bob Cruz: 9:35 A.M.
- IV. Introductions:
- V. Approval of Minutes:
 - See Government Affairs Council Meeting Minutes dated August 9, 2007
- VI. Chair's Report:
 - *GAC Voting Membership:* See Chair's Report dated September 13, 2007. Vote in Sondra Elrod
 - *Final Operating Procedures:* See Chair's Report dated September 13, 2007
- VII. President & CEO Report:
 - Washington DC Legislative Fly-In: See President & CEO Report Packet dated September 13, 2007
- VIII. Action Items:
 - *Approval of Minutes:* Bob Cruz asks the council to review the minutes from August 9, 2007 meeting. Cindy Anderson moves to approve the minutes. Seconded by Bob Cruz. Motion passes unanimously.
 - *GAC Voting Membership:* Bob Cruz states that Sondra Elrod needs to be voted in as a Voting Member of the GAC. Patti Arldt moves to vote in Sondra Elrod. Seconded by Jack Storrusten. Motion passes unanimously.
- IX. New Business/Old Business:
 - *2007 Policy Platform:* Shaun Lumachi reads through the platform line by line inviting questions and concerns from the Council. Due to time restraints the council will resume the read through on the next meeting. Will begin with Government Finance.
- X. Meeting adjourned: 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Palomar
Executive Assistant
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

2007 POLICY PLATFORM

Presentation

Bob Cruz, GAC Chair
The Gas Company

Recommended Action

To review the draft 2007 Policy Platform beginning with the Government Finance section and to consider recommendation to board of director for approval.

Background

Each year, pursuant to the Ontario Chamber's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Operating Procedures, the GAC shall develop the Chamber's legislative priorities. Each of the policy goals shall serve as the foundation for the Ontario Chamber's continuing effort to improve the Ontario and regional business climate.

The Ontario Chamber will use the policy platform to review and consider local, statewide, and when appropriate, federal legislation and communicate the information to the Chamber's membership.

Draft 2007 Ontario Chamber of Commerce Policy Platform

Economic Development

1. Monitor development projects within the Ontario region.
2. Monitor land use, planning, housing and zoning proposals that impact the regional Ontario business community.
3. Review and consider policies that protect Ontario's reputation as an attractive prosperous location for business balancing employment and housing needs with natural resource preservation and to plan and construct the community infrastructure necessary to support current and future business needs.
4. Monitor and review policies that protect private sector property rights as it relates to eminent domain and the overall impact to the Ontario business community.

Aviation

1. ~~Support~~ Monitor and review policy that preserves, promotes and progresses the economic vitality of Ontario's regional aviation industry.
2. Monitor and promote, when appropriate, aviation industry expansion including the preparation of cost/benefit analysis to ensure economic impacts are weighed before the imposition of legislative and/or regulatory statutes.

Education

1. Support the regional educational system that prepares people for 21st century jobs and careers.
- ~~2. Work with agencies to assist with development of workforce training priorities.~~
3. Support the development of on-going programs within the business community that integrates with the local educational sectors in our area that offer vocational and technical career education and training paths.

Infrastructure Improvements

1. Review and consider reliable, stable, and competitively priced energy ~~supplies~~ sources for the Ontario region and California's businesses and consumers.
2. Encourage an adequate supply of appropriate housing to meet the needs of the Ontario region and monitor its impact on the Ontario business community.
3. Review and consider polices that maintain water supply and water quality. ~~improve water quality as the result of comprehensive approaches that will reduce contaminants from water sources in a cost effective manner.~~
4. Review and consider policies that impact air quality standards which might place Ontario's regional business community at a competitive disadvantage.

Transportation

1. Review and consider ~~and propose, when appropriate,~~ transportation improvement plans that relieve congestion on freeways, streets and roads, and ensure mobility within the Ontario region.
2. Review legislative proposals that place mandates upon the automobile industry.
3. Review and consider tax proposals that impact the automobile, trucking and rail industries. ~~industry and its consumers.~~
4. Review and consider legislation impacting the flow and storage of materials from the point of origin to the point of consumption that might place Ontario's inbound and outbound logistics industry at a competitive disadvantage

Government Finance

1. Ensure that regulations on business are kept to a minimum and do not put Ontario businesses at a competitive disadvantage.
2. Review and consider reform measures that solve the state budget's continuing structural deficit that promotes real economic growth and job creation and its impact on the Ontario business community.
3. Encourage cooperation among local and state government agencies, and work to streamline and reduce unnecessary requirements of regulatory agencies.
4. Review and consider ways to privatize government services and public contracts while maintaining or improving standards.
5. Review and consider state and local tax changes and new tax categories affecting the Ontario business community
6. Support and promote, when appropriate, the preparation of cost/benefit analysis ensuring economic impacts are weighed before the imposition of regulatory statutes.
7. Support local and state programs, when appropriate, that secure tax credits for targeted programs.
8. Consider and review policies that promote the outsourcing of essential public services by local and state government agencies.

Pro-Business Leadership

1. Continue and maintain a working relationship with local, state and federal representatives.
2. Review legislative proposals that promote standards of corporate governance that guide boards of directors and corporate officers in managing their corporations in a competent, ethical manner.
3. Review and consider measures that reform the state's redistricting process.

Employee Relations

1. Review and consider measures that reform the extraordinary costs of the state's public pension system.
2. Seek and monitor alternatives to any proposed state minimum wage increases and any local or state living wage ordinances.
3. Monitor and provide recommendations to any workers' compensation reform proposal that place Ontario businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

4. Review responsible healthcare reform proposals that protect Ontario businesses and result in increased availability of affordable health care coverage for employers and their employees.
5. Review legislative proposals that might cause unwarranted and frivolous lawsuits on Ontario businesses, consumers and taxpayers.

Trade Expansion and Investment

1. Review and consider the application of innovative technologies to improve the movement of goods and people in Ontario and throughout the Inland Empire.
2. Review and consider environmental policies that impact the trade industry and the overall Ontario business community.

Healthcare

1. Review and consider legislative and regulatory policies that preserve the current voluntary employer-provided health coverage system.
2. Review and consider efforts to contain the costs of premiums.
3. Support legislation to allow employers to offer more affordable benefit plans that allow choices in coverage.
4. Support policies that prevent cost shifting from government-provided programs to the private sector.
5. Review and consider policies that curb the expansion of litigation in the health care system.
6. Review and consider policies that encourage continued medical discoveries and innovations that improve quality of care.