

A WORD FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Mobile Area Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) strives to engage public and private sectors in the common goal of creating regional prosperity. The committee works with elected officials on pro-business policies, issues and legislation promoting economic growth and success to move the region forward.

Each year, the community legislative agenda addresses key policy goals. The 2011 agenda is comprised of 16 critical

issues, five legislative issues, 14 policy recommendations and two appropriation requests. Issues range from education to healthcare to local planning and zoning.

Take time to thank our elected officials for serving the community and addressing the issues found in the 2011 agenda. More importantly, ask local, state and federal leaders to support the positions stated here as an opportunity to create a successful business environment and prosperous region.

What GAC Committee Members Are Saying:

Owen Bailey, vice-chair for Governmental Affairs (executive vice-president, Infirmiry Health System Inc.)



"One of the business community's biggest challenges in 2011 will be surviving and thriving in this national environment of economic uncertainty. Whether it's federal over-regulation or legislation passed in 2010, for which we still don't fully know the impact, the business community has to find its footing. We must continue to advocate for free enterprise and legislation to help businesses grow and prosper. The path to recovery lies in bringing certainty to the regulatory environment and putting in place smart policies that allow for business and economy growth."

Sam W. Covert Jr., member of Governmental Affairs Committee and Chamber board member (area manager Mobile Division, Alabama Power Co.)



"The Mobile Bay region is known as a place where we partner to get things done. It's why we've been successful in attracting new industry and business and in establishing strong workforce development programs. We need to continue to do great things collaboratively. We want to be known as the best place in the world for workforce development partnerships."

Lee Metzger, chairman, Local Governmental Affairs Sub-Committee (secretary/treasurer, Providence Park Inc.)



"Because we're sales tax dependent, I'm concerned about the ability of our local government to provide the essential services that our citizens need. A healthy economy needs policies that encourage investment and hiring. During these economically constrained times, it's important not to let regulatory burdens or taxes hinder our recovery and long-term growth. I'm looking for a turnaround in the economy in 2011, and we've got to be ready to participate in the national recovery."