



Business Climate

Kent is the sixth largest city in Washington and is an economic powerhouse; our primary objective is to increase jobs, competitiveness and regional productivity. Strategically located, Kent is fifteen miles from the Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma which leads many manufacturing, warehousing and suppliers to locate in the Kent Valley. Kent is the fourth largest manufacturing and distribution area in the United States with substantial economic impact on the State of Washington's budget.

- We must protect the asset of the Kent valley by ensuring that the Green River flood levees protect and maintain our crucial infrastructure and Washington's economic engine. To do this we focus on:
 - Maximize land use and create partnership and a shared vision with local governments that speed up levee accreditation.
 - Promote levee accreditation at the forefront of thought in policy and funding in order to protect our vital assets.
- Another top priority for our business climate is the efficiency of permitting for projects both large and small. This can be accomplished by reducing unfunded mandates to local governments, increasing speed during the permitting process, and eliminating duplicative reports to reduce costs in order to speed up economic development.

We will continue to work to maintain and create a positive business environment, supporting the economic development and growth of business within the Kent area. Maintain positive relationships with business, city, state and residents. Advocate best practices for Chamber membership, representing over 475 businesses with a cohesive, positive working environment with our elected officials and government agencies.

Transportation & Infrastructure

- The community is the creator of the sustainable business environment. In order to maintain and grow the communities of Washington we must invest in our infrastructure, moving goods, services and people. The Kent Chamber fully supports the South Sound Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition (SSCCLC) transportation priorities and thanks the WA Legislature for their leadership in passing the Transportation Package in 2015.

Education

- Washington is confronted with a skills gap that threatens our economic future, limits job opportunities for residents, and prohibits employers from finding candidates with the skills necessary to meet their needs. The Kent Chamber recognizes the importance of education and training the next generation. We support K-12, higher education, trade schools, and partnerships to encourage the empowerment of educators and students to lead to a higher level of achievement and graduation rates. We support incentive programs for students to stay in Washington and take advantage of the robust Community College system offered in Washington State with focus on homegrown education programs that focus on the community educational needs. Furthermore, we believe we must strive for public private partnership to give students real world experience along with apprenticeship programs that mirror the needs of the local jobs climate.