



## GSSCC 2010 Legislative Priorities for Maryland

- I. CONTINUED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SILVER SPRING** – *The revitalization of Silver Spring created more businesses, more jobs, more commerce, and has steadily increased the flow of tax dollars into the State. But, Silver Spring is far from being finished, and the current economic climate threatens continued success. Continued support and incentives are necessary to assure a vibrant and robust business climate that will continue to generate revenue for the State and local government. The Chamber will:*
- Support the public-private partnership to bring the Fillmore Music Hall to Silver Spring.
  - Support continued public investment in the AFI/Silver Theatre as a means of furthering economic growth.
  - Support full funding for Montgomery College’s operating and capital budget requests.
- II. MARYLAND’S TAX & REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS** – *Tax policies and regulations enacted over the past several years have made Maryland less competitive for business, especially small business, and have driven high income earners out of the State. But assuring a robust business sector is critical to generating the revenue necessary to provide the services Marylanders have come to expect. As the State addresses a significant decrease in income as a result of the current economic crisis and a decrease of perhaps 30 percent in the number of high income earners, the focus should be on restraining spending. Now is not the time for new fees and taxes or additional regulation that would further harm the competitive position of the business community. The Chamber will:*
- Support reducing or eliminating non-essential, duplicative or ineffective programs or services.
  - Oppose new taxes on business, including increased corporate taxes and expansion of sales tax to business and professional services.
  - Support tax policies that spread the responsibility for funding State initiatives across the broadest segment of the taxpayers.
  - Oppose new or increased taxes that drive even more high income earners out of the State.
  - Oppose new regulatory measures that increase the cost and complexity of doing business and discourage business from locating in Maryland. Support modifications to existing law that would make Maryland more competitive.
- III. TRANSPORTATION FOCUS** – *Assuring a vibrant mass transit system and encouraging the use of public transportation will promote economic growth and assure quality of life. The Chamber will:*
- Support building the Purple Line, specifically urging State leaders to advocate for Federal funding.
  - Support adequate funding of the State’s Transportation Trust Fund and dedicated regional funding for WMATA.
  - Advocate for dedicating any increase in the gasoline tax solely to fund necessary transportation infrastructure.
- IV. SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVES** – *Small business is the economic engine of the State of Maryland. Assuring a business environment that supports small business will assure continued economic vitality. The Chamber will:*
- Support legislation that expands access to affordable health insurance and decreases the cost burden to small business owners.
  - Support State and County initiatives that would expand small businesses participation in Statewide procurement opportunities.