

2015 AAED Policy Priorities

EXPANDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO MAKE ARIZONA MORE COMPETITIVE

AAED supports programs and policies that encourage businesses to expand and locate in Arizona for the long term. AAED urges the Legislature to support legislation that enhances Arizona's competitive position in attracting and retaining high wage jobs.



RETAIN EXISTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

AAED membership opposes any unnecessary changes that reduce or delay program or tax reductions years that benefits economic development. Many companies chose to relocate or expand in Arizona in part because of these programs. The need to remain consistent and competitive is more critical than ever. While changes to these programs might yield short term gains, significant alterations in tax policies will place Arizona at a competitive disadvantage for years to come.

REAUTHORIZE THE ARIZONA COMMERCE AUTHORITY

AAED supports the reauthorization of the Commerce Authority and the Arizona Competes Fund. Both of these programs are set to expire in 2016. Waiting an additional year will seriously call into question the states' commitment to economic development.

ENHANCE THE ACCESS TO CAPITAL

AAED recognizes that access to capital is one of the major impediments to the formation and growth of new companies. Venture capital drives job creation and economic growth by helping entrepreneurs turn innovative ideas and scientific advances into products and services. Angel funds help those companies' startups and smaller businesses grow. The state of Arizona has one of the premiere Angel Investment Tax Credit programs; it expires in 2016. There is a need for the extension and further refinement of the Angel Investment Tax Credit program and the development of a program that encourages more venture capital investments within Arizona. Furthermore, the need to fund the research and development tax credit is also necessary to encourage the retention and attraction of the companies and high wage jobs associated with these activities. Finally, AAED encourages the legislature to allow companies that have earned tax credits through their investment and job creation activities to be able to apply those credits to other Arizona tax liabilities.