



## 2013 Legislative Agenda

This Legislative Agenda is driven by results from a membership-wide survey and reflects the Upstate business community's 2013 legislative priorities.

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### **Economic Development**

The Coalition is an advocate of developing and implementing comprehensive statewide economic development plan that focuses on creating jobs of the future, business retention, and incentives for high-growth companies.

#### ***The Coalition supports:***

- Incentives to support existing business growth and new company attraction
  - Incentives to attract private capital for promising start-ups while putting S.C. on an even, competitive footing with our neighboring states
  - Continued port expansion, including harbor deepening and inland port projects
  - Dedicated funding and stable revenue for state road maintenance and repair
  - Increasing investment in Upstate roads and bridges, specifically I-85 and I-26
  - Adequate state funding for Upstate tourism
  - Adopting initiatives to improve South Carolina's civil litigation climate
  - Achieving business-friendly, comprehensive tax reform by modernizing the state's tax code
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### **Education and Workforce Development**

The Coalition believes that life-long education is a driver of economic development. By striving to create a skilled workforce that has the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the needs of businesses, education will become the dynamic force behind business in the Upstate.

#### ***The Coalition supports:***

- Initiatives that will help to increase early childhood education and graduation rates, thus providing a more skilled workforce for business and industry in SC
  - Adequate funding for programs such as WorkKeys and ReadySC to educate and train SC's workforce
  - Adequate funding for South Carolina's colleges and technical colleges to help support and train our future workforce
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## Energy and Environment

The Coalition understands that steps need to be taken to ensure new, innovative ideas are being developed for energy use and consumption that can be utilized without causing unnecessary harm to the environment.

### *The Coalition supports:*

- Initiatives to insure compliance with EPA air quality standards that promote development without compromising quality of life
  - Current and future nuclear power facilities while focusing on offshore wind-power and drilling opportunities
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## Healthcare

The Coalition recognizes that health insurance access and affordability continues to be an issue for businesses throughout the state, especially small businesses.

### *The Coalition supports:*

- Initiatives to ensure healthcare is affordable for small business
  - Continuing to monitor and gather information as it relates to federal Medicaid expansion, which goes into effect in 2013
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## Regulatory Reform

The Coalition recognizes that regulatory policies have a massive impact on the cost and affordability of doing business in South Carolina and the Upstate.

### *The Coalition supports:*

- Streamlining and combining of agencies and different departments within the state to improve government efficiency
  - Continued efforts to ensure S.C. remains a right to work state
  - Continued repayment of federal UI loan while providing adequate relief to all SC businesses
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