2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CAPE FEAR BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Strengthen Education & Workforce

- The CFBA promotes and advocates for high-impact programs such as apprenticeships, career and technical education, and early college high schools that connect students with postsecondary and career opportunities. Businesses and educational institutions should work together to customize work-based programs to meet their short- and long-term needs. (Local)
- Support the development of policies and ongoing programs that increase access and affordability to create housing opportunities for our region's expanding workforce. (Local, State)
- Monitor school system performance and the potential impact on student's success in the classroom and our community. (Local)
- Prioritize investment in workforce training and upskilling programs to prepare workers for new careers and available, in-demand jobs. (Local)

Sustain Positive Business Growth

- The CFBA opposes legislation that expands the number of health insurance mandates imposed on North Carolina businesses as mandates unduly increase health care costs for employers. (State)
- The CFBA opposes any future mask mandates, vaccine requirements, or social distancing restrictions placed on businesses. These decisions should be left to the business owners. (Local, State)
- Support efforts to develop economic development policies to encourage entrepreneurial and small business growth. (Local, State)
- Continue to pursue regulatory reform by looking for ways to reduce outdated or ineffective regulations for which the benefits do not outweigh the costs. For example, abolish laws that restrict growth in particular industries, such as certificate-of-need laws for hospitals and restrictions on the production and distribution of alcoholic beverages. (State)
- Eliminate or make changes to occupational licensing laws that tend to block entrepreneurship. (State)

Support Infrastructure Development

- The CFBA supports legislation preventing moratoriums on natural gas infrastructure and protecting access to natural gas as a fuel choice for job creators and housing affordability. (State, Federal)
- The CFBA will support efforts to strengthen broadband infrastructure grants, broaden access to digital devices, improve affordability and adoption, and enhance availability in underserved areas. (Local, State)
- Support the MPO Board's identification of the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge as their highest unfunded priority and lead efforts to encourage transportation and elected leaders to pursue all possible options to fund its replacement, discouraging tolls. (Local, State, Federal)
- Support ongoing and future phases of the NC Ports Wilmington Harbor Improvement Project. (Local, State, and Federal)
- Monitor potential impacts of unregulated contaminants on public water supply, new growth, and existing regional businesses. (Local, State, Federal)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Brett Tanner, *Chair* | Jimmy Tate, *Vice Chair*
Richard Hillson, *Secretary* | Harry Knight, *Treasurer*
Thomas Murphy | Kyle Van Zandt | Alexandra Lysik
Jonathan Bridges, *Executive Director*

Follow us on social:
Cape Fear Business Alliance

CAPEFEARBIZ.ORG
admin@capefearbiz.org
(919) 634-4482