**July 23, 2026**

Chambers of commerce throughout Oregon ask Gov. Kotek and state legislators to act urgently to implement the recommendations released today by the Governor's Prosperity Council.

With few exceptions, the measures the Prosperity Council recommends point to challenges long recognized by businesses and chambers of commerce as impediments to growth and prosperity. Identifying problems and proposing solutions is the easy part, however. Addressing these problems is the hard part, and it must begin now.

For many years, businesses and chambers of commerce have urged policymakers to address the state's difficult regulatory environment, which increases costs, stifles innovation and drives investment elsewhere. Yet legislators and others have done little in response. The Prosperity Council has created another opportunity to act, proposing, among other things, to reduce state regulations and reform outlier policies like Oregon's land use system and the Climate Protection Program.

Various elements of Oregon’s tax code have long been recognized as competitive disadvantages as well. These include the state’s estate tax (the nation’s most punitive), its overreliance on the personal income tax and, of course, the low threshold for the state’s corporate activity tax. These and other features of Oregon’s tax code provide powerful incentives for people and businesses to leave the state.

If the governor and Legislature are committed to improving Oregon’s economy, as they should be, they must act now to prepare substantive reforms for the 2027 legislative session while concurrently taking executive action where possible. There is no excuse for delay. Imagine how much better off Oregon’s communities would be now if the state’s leaders had begun to act urgently three or four years ago.

Communities across Oregon rely upon businesses and talented people to create prosperity. The recommendations shared by the Prosperity Council will not solve all of our competitiveness issues but they will bring Oregon’s policy environment into closer alignment with the needs of the state’s businesses, residents and its communities. They will do so, however, only if Oregon’s governor and Legislature act upon them quickly.

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