

Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED)

2008 Legislative Platform

Entrepreneurship Funding: MAPCED supports the concept of developing a program for entrepreneurship and recommends that the state support the program by providing \$6 million of additional funding to the Small Business Development Centers across the state to expand their functions and not to duplicate efforts.

Sales Tax Exemptions: Many smaller manufacturing businesses do not take advantage of the Sales Tax exemption on equipment because the taxes are reimbursed. MAPCED supports that this sales tax exemption be provided at the time of purchase.

Alternative Energy Assistance: Minnesota is a leader in the production of alternative fuels including E85 and Bio-Diesel. MAPCED supports alternative energy options and supports incentives such as producer payments and credits for technology to aid these new industries as the State did with Ethanol and Bio-Diesel.

Transportation: MAPCED supports passage of a comprehensive long-term transportation-funding package that addresses the needs of the state. Revenue increases in such a package could be generated from these sources: Gas tax, license tab fees, motor vehicle leased vehicle sales tax, indexing, sales taxes, wheelage taxes, & bonding.

Bio Science Technologies: MAPCED supports substantial increased investments in Bio Science Technologies.

Labor Force Study: MAPCED supports funding of \$1.5 million for the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to conduct a labor force study.

Rural Healthcare Workforce: MAPCED supports a state initiative to provide the necessary healthcare workforce that will sustain the growing needs of the aging population in rural Minnesota.

Department of Employment and Economic Development Programs: MAPCED supports the continuation and refunding of the following programs provided by DEED:

- \$25 million to be allocated to the **Greater Minnesota Business Development Infrastructure Grant Program**. These grant funds will be used to construct water, sewer, and street improvements to accommodate opportunities for business expansions and new business park developments in Greater Minnesota.
- \$25 million to the **Redevelopment Fund** from the general fund. These grant funds will be used to assist communities with redeveloping substandard and/or blighted areas.
- Allocation of \$50 million to the **Minnesota Investment Fund** for business loans. These loans would assist expanding companies with equipment purchases, building construction and infrastructure improvements.
- Appropriation of \$1 million to support the marketing efforts of the **Positively Minnesota Marketing Program**.
- Modification of the **Business Subsidy Law**. This law will raise all monetary thresholds of the law from its current levels to \$250,000. MAPCED supports public disclosure of all businesses assistance activities, but sees a need to streamlining the reporting requirements and removing unneeded regulatory burdens of the law.
- MAPCED supports **Strategic Entrepreneurial Economic Development (SEED)** especially at this time of economic downturn. Minnesota needs additional Economic Development tools in order to retain and create high paying jobs.