



WBBA PUBLIC AFFAIRS AGENDA

WBBA's public affairs agenda derives from recommendations in "The Future of Life Sciences in Washington," a comprehensive bioscience strategy. The recommendations in the strategy are based on five key areas: research investment, technology commercialization, capital formation, business climate, and education/workforce and public understanding. The public affairs agenda includes local, state, and federal issues. (See key below.)

Research Investments

- WBBA will advocate for significant incremental, and sustainable state funding for recruitment of top life sciences faculty to the state's research universities. (*Recommendation # 6, p. 11*) (S)
- WBBA will advocate for additional state investment in technology gap programs at research universities. (*Recommendation #10, p. 13*) (S)

Technology Commercialization

- WBBA supports the recommendations of the Washington Economic Development Commission Report on Technology Commercialization. (*Recommendation #13, p. 15*) (S)

Capital Formation

- WBBA will encourage the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) and other in-state pension funds and foundations to expand their allocation of investment in funds that target investment in Washington-based companies. (*Recommendation #20, p. 22*) (S)

Business Climate

- WBBA will work systematically to help elected officials and other government officials understand the unique character and needs of life sciences companies so that policies regarding permitting, assessments, zoning, and emergency preparedness are based on appropriate information. (*Recommendation #22, p. 28*) (B)
- WBBA will establish District connections between life sciences company leaders and members of the State Legislature in order to create ongoing relationships, increase legislators' understanding of the sector's needs and economic contributions in their District. (*Recommendation #22, p. 28*) (S)
- WBBA will take action to analyze Washington's potential niche in terms of life sciences manufacturing and develop the appropriate strategy to pursue Washington's potential in this arena. (*Recommendation #23, p. 29*)
- WBBA will promote wellness concepts that stress healthy lifestyles, encourage health monitoring for early detection, and work with the healthcare community in order to lower overall healthcare costs while improving health. (*Recommendation #24, p. 29*) (B)

Key: Public Affairs Agenda items are listed by building block and note recommendation number and page number in the strategy itself. S (State); F (Federal); B (Both)

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Education/Workforce/Public Understanding

- WBBA will continue to participate with the College and Work Ready Agenda to advocate for math and science learning standards that will prepare Washington's children for college and work. (*Recommendation 27, p. 32*) (S)

Federal

In 2007, WBBA was more involved in federal issues related to the life sciences industry than ever before. It is anticipated that drug pricing/reimbursement issues, regulatory issues, biosimilars, and health care reform efforts will drive our federal public affairs agenda.

We anticipate monitoring and responding to a number of issues on which we expect action. Those will likely include:

State

Health Technology Assessment
Agricultural Biotechnology
Bio-fuels

State and Federal

Drug/Pricing Reimbursement
Prescription Prescriber Data
Health Care Reform
Stem Cell Research

Federal

SBIR
Patent Reform
Immigration Reform

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