

# OUTCOMES AND ACTION ITEMS

Shortly after we returned to the Valley, our congressional delegation received word of positive news relating to some of the issues we discussed while in D.C.

First, a federal appeals court blocked the implementation of the EPA's Waters of the United States regulation while litigation proceeds through the court system. Secondly, the president signed HR 1624 allowing states to keep the definition of small group employer at 50 rather than increase to 100.

The Chamber's public affairs team will continue to work with the Arizona congressional delegation, the U.S. Chamber and other interested parties to ensure that Arizona's economic prosperity is protected at the federal level.

There are numerous outstanding issues still facing Arizona and the nation and the Chamber will take what it learned and pursue solutions on the state and national level to ensure the needs of businesses are being met.



From left to right:

Don Isaacson, Ken McMahon, Mike Stefanik, Todd Sanders, Kim Shepard, Mike Huckins, Marty Weems, Phyllis Senseman, Mike McCann, Josh Rawitch, Ed Munson

Thank you for attending!

## LIVE FROM D.C.



EST. 1888

## EVENT SUMMARY & RECAP



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# D.C. EXECUTIVE DIALOGUE 2015

## OCTOBER 5 – 8, 2015

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce's inaugural Washington, D.C. Policy Trip was a great success as we connected our 12-member delegation with high-level officials, the majority of our Arizona congressional delegation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber Board Chairman Ken McMahon, President and CEO Todd Sanders and Vice President of Public Affairs Mike Huckins led the group through three days of strategy and advocacy sessions furthering our mission of advancing the priorities of the state's business community. We even scored a behind-the-scenes tour of the U.S. Supreme Court authorized by Justice Clarence Thomas! Highlights of that exclusive extra included touring the Reading/Research Room and the justices' conference rooms followed by an up-close look at the courtroom.

In order to get the most out of this trip, the Chamber decided to focus on four areas: education and workforce, environmental mandates, health care and sequestration.

The highlight of the trip was spending time with Arizona's U.S. senators and representatives. The Chamber met with nearly every member of the state's U.S. House delegation and engaged in robust and informative dialogue. Congressional

delegation members provided their insights into U.S. House leadership elections and what to expect during the next 90 days.

Members of Arizona's congressional delegation were optimistic that several issues could be addressed by the end of this calendar year including the debt limit, enacting a budget for the entire fiscal year, transportation funding and enacting K-12 and higher education bills.

We kicked off the first day at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce discussing several issues important to Chamber members.

U.S. Chamber members representing health policy, environment, technology, regulatory affairs, education, workforce, political affairs and federal regulations helped prepare us for our meetings with Arizona's congressional delegation.

Kenyata Wesley, acting director of the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Small Business Programs, discussed the harmful effects of sequestration and impressed upon our group the need to enact a full-year budget instead of continuing resolutions.

Members of our congressional delegation also specifically discussed their positions and took input from our group on our four areas of focus for the trip. Here is a quick look at some of their goals.

#### EDUCATION / WORKFORCE

- Support the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- Support the Higher Education Act (HEA).
- Continue to support high standards and aligned assessments.
- Allow for flexibility in federal school funding.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL MANDATES

- Support efforts to delay, prohibit or create Arizona-specific exemptions for increased ozone mandates.
  - HR 1327 & S 640 Ozone Regulatory Delay & Extension of Assessment Length (ORDEAL) Act
  - HR 1320 & S 640 – Common sense Legislative Exceptional Events Reform (CLEER) Act
  - HR 1388 & S 751 – Clean Air, Strong Economies (CASE) Act
- Continue to work with states and the EPA on the Clean Power Plan to recognize unique economies and economic cost.
- Continue to monitor and assist however possible with other EPA mandates such as Waters of the United States.

#### U.S. Chamber reps that addressed our group:

- Katie Mahoney**, Executive Director, Health Policy
- Mary Martin**, Policy Council and Committee Executive, Environment, Technology and Regulatory Affairs
- Caitlin Codella**, Director, Policy, Center for Education and Workforce
- Eileen Braden**, Vice President, Political Affairs and Federation Relations

#### Department of Defense presenter:

**Kenyata Wesley**, Acting Director, Office of Small Business Programs

#### Congressional delegation members we met with:

- Senator Jeff Flake**
- Representative David Schweikert**
- Representative Ruben Gallego**
- Representative Raul Grijalva**
- Representative Martha McSally**

- Meg Joseph**, Chief of Staff *on behalf of Representative Kyrsten Sinema*
- Representative Matt Salmon**
- Representative Paul Gosar**
- Representative Ann Kirkpatrick**

"The D.C. Executive Dialogue trip was very worthwhile. Chamber members and executive staff had the opportunity to receive a firsthand report from Arizona's Congressional delegation on issues of interest pending before Congress. It's clear that the Chamber identified itself as a key constituent to Arizona Senators and all of Arizona's Congressman by sending a strong delegation to meet with them personally. Most importantly, the trip served as an inaugural exchange between Arizona's Congressional delegation and members. Knowing that this will be an annual event is a valuable benefit for all of the Phoenix Chamber, even for the majority of members who do not participate personally."

**Don Isaacson**, Isaacson & Walsh, GPCC Premier Member

#### HEALTH CARE

- Repeal the health care Benefits Excise Tax – HRs 2050 & 879.
- Return the employer mandate to 40 hours per week.
- Allow small businesses to utilize health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs) without undue penalties.
  - HR 2911 & S 1697 – Small Business Health Care Relief Act
- Encourage streamlined and uniform ACA rules by the EEOC relating to workplace wellness programs.
- Allow states to control the definition of small group employers.
  - HR 1624 – Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees (PACE) Act

#### SEQUESTRATION/BUDGETS

- Pass full-year budgets while avoiding continuing resolutions.
- Recognize the large impact military and defense contract spending cuts have on Arizona.
- Continue to recognize the contributions of Arizona's military bases on the overall state economy.
- Provide flexibility in military contract spending whenever possible.

"It was interesting, informative and educational. I appreciate having had the opportunity to go on the trip."

**Phyllis Senseman**  
*Vice President Agency Management & Marketing, CopperPoint Mutual Insurance Company*

"This was a productive trip. I think the fact we were willing to drop everything for a few days to meet with the delegation goes a long way."

**Edward Munson Jr.**  
*VP/General Manager, KTVK 3TV/KPHO CBS5*

"I think we all agree that taking time from our busy day jobs is always a challenge, but without a doubt I can say it was an extremely valuable use of our time for many reasons, not the least of which was getting to know each other so much better."

**Kim Shepard**  
*Senior Vice President – Sales and Account Management, Cigna*