

---

## **TOP PRIORITY**

### **Northern Beltline**

Support full funding and the timely completion of the project, including the completion of the I-59 to I-20 extension through the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, the annual appropriations process, the Appalachian Highway System program or any other federal sources. Oppose any effort to limit the amount of federal funding available for the project.

---

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### ▪ **Broadband Policy Initiative**

Broadband is an essential component of Alabama's infrastructure and critical to growing and diversifying Alabama's economy. The Birmingham Business Alliance supports broadband policy that promotes greater access to affordable broadband for all Alabamians; encourages new investment, jobs, and technology development and deployment across Alabama; and, promotes greater competition and choices for businesses and consumers. We oppose public policy that leads to excessive government intervention and regulation of the internet which will inevitably drive up costs for business and consumers in Alabama.

## **LABOR**

Support a worker's right to confidentially decide whether to unionize. To this end, the BBA will oppose the so-called "Employee Free Choice Act."

## **LAWSUIT REFORM**

Fight to preserve the availability of arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

## **TRANSPORTATION-GENERAL**

- Address the expected Highway Trust Fund shortfall.
- Advocate for the multi-year reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU as soon as possible that would provide for an increase in federal investment in transportation infrastructure, while maintaining the current balance of funding for transportation modes, in order to ensure improvement of our region's highway and transit systems.

## **TRANSPORTATION - TRANSIT**

- **In-Town Transit Partnership**  
Support the \$65million TIGER grant that has been submitted to the Department of Transportation for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on 18th Street connecting the Civic Center area to Five Points, a BRT on 5th Avenue South supporting the UAB Women's Hospital and the new Children's Hospital. This grant also includes twenty miles of Neighborhood Connector Routes that will provide improved service to Birmingham neighborhoods.
- **Transit Bus Maintenance Facility**  
Support the upgrade and expansion of a bus maintenance facility.

## **TRANSPORTATION ISSUES - HIGHWAYS**

- **Corridor X/I-22**  
Provide continued funding for the timely completion of Corridor X.

- **I-65 HOV Lanes**  
Support the I-65/U.S. 31 Mobility Matters project which will study High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system and other options to increase mobility and reduce congestion along the I-65/US 31 corridor from Valleydale Road to the City Center/UAB area.

## **HEALTHCARE ISSUES**

- **University of Alabama at Birmingham**
  - \$4 million for a Supercomputer for Genomic Analyses, which will be based at UAB and utilized state-wide by academic institutions and research institutes for computational approaches to genomic data that will allow our State to lead the transition to personalized medicine.
  - The purchase of a cyclotron (\$2 million) that will be used for PET scanning to detect cancer and neurologic diseases such as Alzheimer's as part of the UAB imaging initiative.
- **Medicaid**  
Support legislation that would block current and future federal rules from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that would negatively impact Alabama Medicaid. One such proposed rule would change the definition of "unit of government", which further limits the state's ability to obtain federal Medicaid matching funds.
- **Graduate Medical Education**  
Support continued funding at the current level for both adult and pediatric graduate medical education ("GME") programs. GME funds play a key role training physicians and ensure the medical needs of the Birmingham region and the state are met.
- **Medicare**  
Oppose any attempts to reduce Medicare reimbursements to the Medicare provider community. The BBA supports legislative efforts to provide fair Medicare reimbursement to physicians who provide Medicare services. Furthermore, the BBA supports efforts to reach an equitable resolution on the Medicare wage index issue so that hospitals in the region will be fairly reimbursed for the services they provide to the Medicare population.

## **FEDERAL TAX ISSUES**

- **Business Activity Tax Simplification Act (BATSA)**  
Support passage of BATSA—a bill that would modernize current law and provide definite, specific standards to govern when states may impose a business activity tax.
- **Estate and Gift Tax Sunset Extension**  
Make permanent the federal Estate and Gift Tax law that expired on December 31, 2009. In the alternative, set the lifetime exclusion at no less than \$5M for estate and gift taxes and keep the estate tax rate at no more than 35%.
- **Streamlined Sales Tax**  
Support passage of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Fairness Act.
- **Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)**  
Permanently repeal or make significant modifications to imposition of the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- **Long-Term Capital Gains and Qualified Dividend Income**  
Make permanent the reduced tax rate for long-term capital gains and for qualified dividend income.
- **Oppose Revenue Offsets**  
Prevent back-door tax increases through the imposition of revenue offsets made more likely by Congress' re-imposition of PAYGO (pay-as-you-go) rules designed to offset the financial impact of new spending initiatives or tax cuts.
- **LIFO** – Oppose any effort to repeal the LIFO inventory method.

## **ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY**

- **Red Mountain Park**  
Support the development and completion of Red Mountain Park in accordance with the Red Mountain Greenway and Recreational Commission's master plan.
- **Clean Energy**  
Ensure that any clean energy mandate includes hydroelectricity, nuclear, and coal with carbon capture and sequestration, and natural gas along with all other clean energy technologies so that the most affordable clean energy solutions can be deployed in Alabama.
- **Domestic Production of Energy Resources**  
Oppose efforts to eliminate the Section 199 domestic production deduction for oil and gas production, to repeal the expensing of intangible drilling costs, or to add additional regulations of hydraulic fracturing, as the BBA supports domestic energy production, which is extensive in Alabama and helps reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil and gas.
- **Water Resources**
  - Ensure that Alabama has adequate infrastructure and water quantity to meet the state's needs for municipal and industrial water supply, navigation, energy production, economic development, irrigation and recreational uses.
  - Oppose efforts to expand the jurisdiction of the *Clean Water Act* to allow federal agencies to regulate ditches, culverts and pipes, desert washes, sheet flow, erosional features, and farmland and treatment ponds as "waters of the United States," subjecting such waters to all of the requirements of the CWA (as proposed in S. 787 of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress).

## **OTHER**

- **Sloss Furnaces National Historic Monument**  
Provide \$5M in federal support toward a \$15M campaign to support restoration of the Historic Sloss Furnaces, build a visitor's center and improve public access to the site.
- **Alabama School of Fine Arts Foundation**  
Provide \$3 M toward construction of a \$12 million performing arts center – "The Performance Network" (estimated annual economic impact of \$3.4 million). Additional project funding of \$6 million has already been secured. The remaining \$3 million will be secured from other public and private sources.
- **Farmer's Market Renewal**  
Provide \$3 M for Phase I renovation/restoration of the historic Alabama Farmer's Market on Finley Boulevard. Private and public funds will add an additional \$700,000. The market presently supports more than 200 farm families by providing an outlet for their products to central Alabama consumers.