

Business community needs to unite on legislation

To the editor,

Clif Cypert (Cimarron Trailers) and Johanna Lewis (First National Bank & Trust) have been working with Stephanie Snyder and Mike Seney from the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce recently on current issues facing employers in the areas of Chickasha, Anadarko, Marlow and our surrounding local communities.

The State Chamber is working diligently to address the top issues facing the business community and we've been discussing arranging a town hall type meeting with business owners and Human Resources leaders from these areas to help prioritize and create awareness of our concerns for the State Chamber going into the 2010 legislative session.

Considering the volume of legislation over this past year and what is coming in the near future, we believe it is imperative that the business community start working together to address our concerns as one unified voice. Some of our top issues from our perspective are tort reform, workers comp fraud and healthcare reform but we are interested in what issues span across other industries as well.

Mike, Stephanie and the rest of the State Chamber staff have an ambitious agenda to support our needs but they need our help and input as they advocate for our interests.

We have scheduled this town hall meeting for November 19th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The location will be the Helen Ward Seminar Center at Canadian Valley Technology Center in Chickasha. Please forward this email to any of your colleagues and friends who might also be interested in participating and have them respond to the invitation.

I believe it is critical that we do something now to address these issues before more harm is done to the business community's ability to maintain jobs and competitiveness in our great State of Oklahoma. This meeting will be the precursor before scheduling a 2nd meeting which will include our region's legislative representatives and allow them to hear our concerns and expectations of them as a group.

Please respond by Monday, November 9th, 2009 so we can get an estimated headcount and make sure the room we've scheduled will be sufficient. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to call or email Clif or Johanna or Stephanie Snyder at the State Chamber, her contact info is below.

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