

The Chamber rightly enjoys a reputation as one of Oregon's leading business advocates. The Chamber works diligently to influence important state and local matters that affect business and the health and wellbeing of our community. In launching its own political action committee—Chamber PAC—The Chamber will be better able to achieve its mission. I have two primary objectives for the coming year as your new Chairman:

- **Workforce Housing.** An overarching problem facing Medford and the region is the availability of workforce housing. Absent suitable and affordable housing for workers, efforts by The Chamber and others to facilitate business expansion and attraction will be frustrated; companies will not locate where there is an inadequate workforce or where their employees cannot afford housing. U.S. Census statistics show that Oregon led all states in the percentage increase in housing cost from 1990 to 2006. The facts also show that land cost as a share of overall housing price has grown steadily before and during the same period. While Oregon law strictly controls the supply of land for urban housing, efforts that would even more tightly control the supply of land for housing must be overcome if our community is to deliver affordable housing for the workers upon which all businesses are dependent. The Chamber has, and should in the future, be deeply interested in issues of housing affordability if desirable community growth and economic prosperity are to be sustained throughout the long range.
- **Local Legislative Action.** The Chamber has always had an effective Legislative Action Committee that focuses intensively on state issues. Recently that focus was broadened to concentrate more on local government issues. This greater concentration will enable The Chamber to be more proactive in achieving its mission, rather than reacting to the things local government does with which we disagree. Where there exists a commonality of objectives, we will also work to forge alliances between the business community and local government.

I am honored to be the Chairman of your Board of Directors, and I look forward with great anticipation to the upcoming year.

Respectfully,

Craig Stone  
Chair of the Board