



News Release

Contact:

Denise Essman
d.essman@essmanassociates.com
Essman/Associates
Phone: 515-282-7145

Marisol Molstre
m.molstre@essmanassociates.com
Essman/Associates
Phone: 515-282-7145

Business Council Leaders Do Not Support “Fair Share” *Iowa Business Council Releases Right-to-Work/Fair Share Survey Results*

Des Moines, IA – (March 5, 2007) – Corporate members of Iowa Business Council have recently weighed the impact that Iowa’s Right-to-Work statute has had on economic development in the state, both generally and in regard to their own specific business operations. During the week of February 18-24, 2007, nineteen members of the Iowa Business Council (excluding the three Regent university presidents and the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics) responded to the questions below:

1. Do you feel Iowa’s current Right-to-Work law has a positive or negative impact re: economic growth in this state?
positive – 100%
negative – 0%
not sure – 0%
2. Do you support any changes or additions to Iowa law that would alter the intent or effect of Iowa’s Right-to-Work law – specifically, the concept of “Fair Share” as set forth in Senate Study Bill 1120/House File 324 and supported by House and Senate majority leaders and Governor Culver?
yes – 0%
no – 100%
not sure – 0%
3. Will a change to Iowa law such as the “Fair Share” proposal impact the future expansion or growth of your company here in Iowa?
yes – 37%
no – 37%
not sure – 26%

Upon reviewing these survey results, Max Phillips, Chair of the Iowa Business Council and President of Qwest-Iowa, issued the following statement:



“Over the course of the last sixty years Iowa has benefited from a solid and vibrant business community that offers quality products and services made by a dedicated and skilled workforce. In the vast majority of situations, management’s relationship with labor – whether in a union or non-union environment – has traditionally been open, forthright, and respectful. Iowa’s Right-to-Work law has played a critical role in helping to attract and keep good job-creating businesses in this state.

“Sustaining Iowa’s competitive posture in the global economy is an on-going challenge. It is essential to expand our human and financial resources by offering attractive career and lifestyle choices in both urban and rural settings. Doing so will enhance the economic vitality of the state and make Iowa a better place to live and work. Removing the freedom of personal choice in an employment relationship sends the wrong message to business owners seeking to grow or expand in Iowa as well as to job seekers who might otherwise desire to pursue career opportunities here.

“For these reasons, the Iowa Business Council urges policymakers and government leaders to carefully consider all of the ramifications associated with a change or addition to Iowa law that would alter the intent or effect of Iowa’s Right-to-Work statute.”

Founded in 1985, the Iowa Business Council is a non-profit, non-partisan, self-funded organization whose members include the top executives of 20 of the largest businesses in the state, the three Regent university presidents, and the state’s largest banking association. Collectively, these companies and institutions employ more than 180,000 Iowans and have made over \$25 billion worth of capital investments in the state. The purpose of the Council is to engage the personal commitment of these executives in active leadership roles on major initiatives that offer opportunity to enhance Iowa’s overall economic vitality. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.iowabusinesscouncil.org.

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Right to Work

