



At a Glance: Growing and Improving Jobs in Washington

What's in a name?

In 2009, at the Governor's request, the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development became the Department of Commerce. The new Department of Commerce was tasked with recommending a mission and structure to the Washington State Legislature that shared the focus of its new name. As outlined below, this recommendation is focused on one clear mission – **to grow and improve jobs in Washington.**

Priorities for Job Growth and Improvement

Commerce used findings from the Commerce Connections report to develop priorities that benefit the state's economy and business climate while also addressing the needs of specific industries.

Global priorities benefitting all Washington employers

- Competitiveness
- Education and Workforce Training
- Infrastructure Investment
- More Efficient Regulation

Specific priorities addressing industry and community needs

- Rural Focus
- Small Business Focus
- Community Capacity
- Sector Focus

Commerce Connections

To inform its recommendation to the Legislature, Commerce held more than 100 stakeholder meetings across the state and heard from nearly 4,000 Washington residents through a statewide survey.

Findings from Commerce Connections outreach are available online at:

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/connections>

Commerce Organization Options

Driven by the Commerce priorities and based on the results of a critical assessment, two potential organizing options have been recommended to the Governor and the Legislature. Each requires shifting some programs from the department and each comes with its own strengths and weaknesses. Further details on each can be found at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/report>

"Washington is a product that must compete every day to retain and grow the businesses and jobs we have now and attract new ones. Sustaining a world-class innovation economy on a foundation of strong communities requires that we make continuous improvements and focus on fundamentals - infrastructure, education and workforce training, and regulatory efficiency. With our eye on these and a handful of more specific priorities, we will achieve global competitiveness for our businesses and more and better jobs for all the state's citizens."

– Rogers Weed, Director,
 Washington State Department of Commerce

Option 1: **Focused Commerce:**

- Retain programs most closely aligned with the Commerce mission
- Move in the Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) small business assistance and information center

Option 2: **Broader Commerce:**

- Moves programs with significant disconnect from mission or a strong desire to leave
- Move in the ORA small business assistance and information center
- Consider co-location or consideration of local infrastructure and energy programs following planned discussions

Where We Go From Here

- Commerce submitted final recommendation to the Governor and Legislature on November 1, 2009.
- Commerce will support the Governor and Legislature as they determine the best way to structure the department for success.