



Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead

Public Affairs Brief

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Economic Development

On August 23, 2007, the Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead Board of Directors endorsed the Growth Plan developed by the GFMEDC and a half-cent sales tax in Cass and Clay counties for economic development.

Voters in Cass County will have a June ballot question concerning the assessment and implementation of a half-cent sales tax to fund economic development in Cass County. The plan will focus on growth in key industry sectors where data projects continued economic and job growth. The money generated from the sales tax will be spent to activate the Growth Plan.

The plan is based on 18 months of research and primarily focuses on enhancing capabilities and infrastructure within three growth sectors: life sciences, information technology and physical sciences. Research has shown that the majority of high-paying jobs created in the United States in the upcoming years will be in these sectors.

Within these broader categories, the GFMEDC has chosen three specific targeted technologies:

- Embedded systems – the systems of computer software and hardware that make devices and machines “think” (ex. the computer that makes the components in your car or tractor talk to one another)
- Vaccine development – the creating, testing and development of vaccines that protect populations against infectious diseases
- Biomedical device technology – creation, research and development of machines designed to aid in the treatment and diagnosis of medical problems

These specific growth sectors were chosen based on their high growth, high wage scales, work force demand, existing base of academic competencies and interest from both academic and private sectors.

Fargo Moorhead is well poised to enhance these fields by bringing together the resources needed. Our community boasts higher education, job training infrastructure as well as a modest base in related industries.

The ripple effect of this Growth Plan will be significant and will reach everyone. More job opportunities means we will attract new people to the area and retain a higher percentage of college graduates. These people demand homes, contractors and laborers to provide services, groceries, clothing, entertainment, etc. A strong, economically stable and growing population ensures our cities and their businesses stay healthy and continue to grow.

The Board of Directors acts on behalf of the 1,900 members of the Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead. If you have any comments, please contact Public Affairs Coordinator **Kelli Poehls**.

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The *Public Affairs Brief* is a benefit to notify members of the Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead about community issues in the region. Those who prefer not to receive this e-mail, are asked to respond with **unsubscribe** in the subject line. Thank you.