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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**STATEMENT FROM THE WV BUSINESS & INDUSTRY COUNCIL ON THE  
STATE BUDGET PROPOSALS**

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** - The West Virginia Business & Industry Council, whose membership includes trade associations and businesses from 26 industries and representing over 400,000 workers, released the following statement today:

While there are multiple budget proposals being considered and debated by the Executive and Legislative branches of government, the West Virginia Business & Industry Council has not endorsed any specific proposal.

Our members, the employer community in West Virginia, believe the State must live within its means and prevent tax increases where possible to families and businesses. West Virginia Business & Industry Council members call upon our legislators and the Governor to make every responsible cut to government available before taxing West Virginia citizens and businesses.

There are literally hundreds of bills still working their way through the legislative process. Many of these measures carry budget impacts of their own. Developing and refining the State budget should take place in the extended legislative session traditionally held the week following the regular legislative session.

Everyone recognizes the critical importance of passing a budget in a timely manner, however, the myriad concepts – to include competing tax increases – create unnecessary confusion and even hardship among families and businesses.

Members of the West Virginia Business & Industry Council urge the Legislature and the Governor to take the time to get this right. West Virginia's future hangs in the balance.

For additional information, contact Chris Hamilton at (304) 342-4153.

The West Virginia Business & Industry Council's membership includes trade associations and businesses from 26 separate industry classifications that represent some 400,000 workers in West Virginia. The organization works to enhance the business climate in West Virginia, and its members have been working to that end for more than three decades.

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