



WHY WASHINGTON?



ALIGNED FOR GROWTH. GLOBALLY CONNECTED. GENERATIONS OF INNOVATION. ENDLESS DISCOVERIES. WASHINGTON CAN CLAIM ALL FOUR.

The secret is out. Washington state's reputation as the place to do business is growing and being recognized nationally.

In 2009, Forbes magazine, the gold standard of business news, named Washington the **2nd best state for businesses**. Also in 2009, U.S. News & Report recognized Washington as the **1st best place to start a business**.

INNOVATIVE THINKING, GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY,
A COMMITMENT TO GROWTH AND ENDLESS
DISCOVERIES ALL MARK WASHINGTON STATE'S
PLACE IN THE NATION - AND THE WORLD.

It's no surprise to those who live and work in Washington. Why? Because Washingtonians recognize and value the kind of business climate that encourages an entrepreneurial spirit.

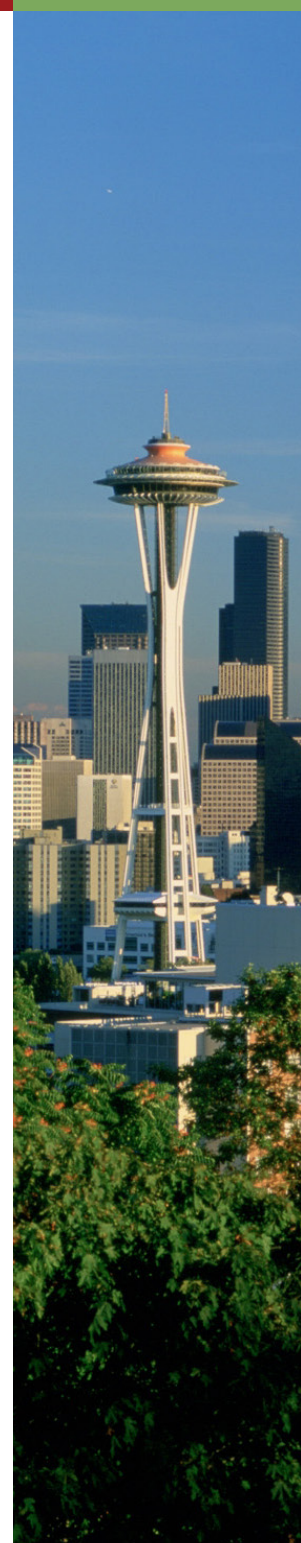
It's true that increased global competition and technology breakthroughs have created new challenges – and

massive opportunities. Globalization, the need for clean energy, and the amazing ability to communicate instantaneously demand forward-looking, agile state policies and programs.

WE ARE A DIVERSE, THRIVING ECONOMY THANKS TO MULTIPLE SECTORS:

- The largest aerospace economy rooted in the tradition of innovation first established by worldwide leader in commercial planes, The **Boeing Company**.
- Washington's natural resources – including wind, solar energy, waves and tides – provide abundant sources for renewable energy production. Our combined strengths in technology, R&D investment, and natural resources create an ideal test bed for new clean energy technologies.
- A vibrant life sciences industry – built on world class research institutions, such as the **Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**, innovative medical technologies, and a global health hub – that is growing through a state initiative, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund.
- Washington is home to an extensive and vibrant information and communication technology sector. Washington leads the country in software publisher employment.
- A diverse marine technology industry that produces a breadth of marine products from luxury yachts to military applications and shipyard design and repair.
- Our historically important forest products industry is being reinvented with new environmentally friendly harvesting and innovative products.

WHILE TAX INCENTIVES AND WORLD-CLASS PORTS AND LOGISTICS HELP MAKE THE CASE TO SITUATE A COMPANY IN WASHINGTON, EQUALLY IMPORTANT ARE THE LESS MEASURABLE ATTRIBUTES THAT ATTRACT TALENT AND WORKFORCE – SUCH AS AN ATMOSPHERE OF INNOVATION, CREATIVITY, TOLERANCE AND GLOBAL AMBITION.



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WHY WASHINGTON?



ALIGNED FOR GROWTH

Washington treats businesses as partners and allies. Between July 2008 and June 2009, more than 62 companies decided to relocate or expand in Washington state. The state nurtures and supports the engines that spawn growth through a host of initiatives designed to foster new business.

We are breaking down barriers by cutting red tape and paperwork, including one-stop licensing, and small business help. Washington's lack of an income tax helped earned the state the rank of **9th Best Business Tax Climate** by the Tax Foundation in Washington, D.C. in 2010.

We invite companies to take advantage of new initiatives as well as industry-specific incentives, including reduced business & occupation tax rate for aerospace manufacturing; reduced business & occupation tax rate for solar energy system and components of solar energy systems manufacturing; sales & use tax waivers for medical device manufacturing; business & occupation tax credit for high technology R&D spending; and sales, use tax deferral/waiver in the high technology sector as well as several incentives for general manufacturing.

GLOBALLY CONNECTED

Led by aerospace, Washington is the **4th largest exporter in the United States**. International trade has been hardwired into the state's DNA from the time the first steamship to China sailed from Seattle in 1882. Nearly 100 years later, the Lui Lin Hai sailed into the Port of Seattle, officially reopening trade between China and the U.S.

The state's transportation infrastructure links Asian ports with the American Midwest. As the most trade-dependent state in the U.S., Washington continues to strengthen port, rail, and roadway systems to meet new and fast growing cargo volume from all over the world.

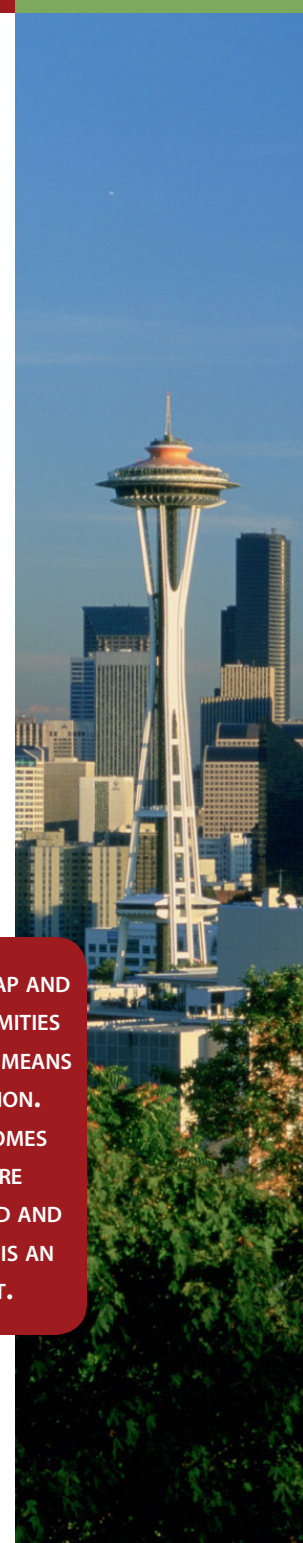
GENERATIONS OF INNOVATION

Washington companies have a history of changing the way people live and work, from wireless technologies, to software, aerospace, retail, biotechnology, medical technologies and global health. Some of the largest, most successful technology companies have established R&D centers in Washington – including Intel, Hewlett Packard, Oracle, Adobe and Google. Companies that locate in Washington enjoy access to a highly educated and skilled workforce, new and fast growing channels for capital, and lower costs than California or Massachusetts.

ENDLESS DISCOVERIES

Our culture of innovation extends beyond the business day. The state boasts a vibrant entertainment and arts scene, and our close proximity to mountains and water lends itself to an unparalleled lifestyle. We are home to an energized music scene, an active philanthropic community and internationally acclaimed wineries. Washington is a place employees want to live and work.

OUR PLACE ON THE MAP AND
OUR CULTURAL PROXIMITIES
WITH **EAST ASIA** ALSO MEANS
A DIVERSE POPULATION.
AS THE WORLD BECOMES
INCREASINGLY MORE
CONNECTED, A SKILLED AND
DIVERSE WORKFORCE IS AN
ENORMOUS ASSET.



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