



**“The business climate in Washington state is tough.  
And I don’t expect improvement until  
legislators cut spending and stop increasing  
costs on employers and individuals.  
If families don’t have money, they spend less.  
Government needs to do the same.”**

Brad Carlson, Owner  
Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Vancouver

## **Our State’s Business Climate is Tough. But you can do something about it.**

Brad Carlson and thousands of business owners are doing everything they can to survive in this economy. They’re cutting costs, finding ways to innovate and getting by with less.

But sometimes it feels like the cards are stacked against them. Business taxes have jumped. An income tax is headed to the ballot this fall. And, this past legislative session, policymakers failed to make critical, systemic changes to get spending under control.

The result? A massive \$3 billion budget deficit. Which means lawmakers will be looking for ways to bridge the gap. That could raise costs on employers—again—and jeopardize jobs.

We can’t control the ups and downs of the economy. But we can promote a more business-friendly climate in Washington state.

**To help ensure your voice is heard in Olympia, visit  
[www.AWB.org](http://www.AWB.org) and click on “We Mean Business.”**



Association  
of Washington  
Business