

For immediate release

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## **Manufacturers to Next President and Congress: Be Bold on Infrastructure; Build to Win**

Washington, D.C., October 12, 2016 – Today, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States, and The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) are releasing "Building to Win," an ambitious, new initiative to revitalize our nation's failing infrastructure. In a vote by the 121 year-old association the initiative was unanimously adopted by the NAM Board of Directors.

Both major party presidential candidates have indicated their desire to address our infrastructure needs in 2017. As plans move forward, the NAM and OMA will work collaboratively to encourage the next president and lawmakers in Ohio to address our most pressing infrastructure priorities and to ensure that investments not only strengthen manufacturing in the United States but also deliver world-class infrastructure for the American people. "Building to Win" identifies many of the most serious infrastructure challenges in America, offers solutions to our problems and provides a menu of possible funding options to consider to pay for the more than \$1 trillion investment that is needed.

"Our failing infrastructure is an embarrassment for our nation. Our ability to compete successfully in the global economy is being held back by roads and bridges in disrepair and ports and airports operating beyond capacity," said NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons. "America's infrastructure is vital to the future of manufacturing in America—to acquire materials for game-changing products, to get our employees to work and to transport what we make to consumers in our country and around the world. Whether it is the astounding costs borne by businesses and individuals because of delays and detours or the inadequate means to get products to market and keep costs down, transportation infrastructure in America needs both an urgent fix and a modern reimagining.

"We must seize this moment. The presidential candidates are offering their support for infrastructure renewal, and bold action in Washington is finally within reach. Manufacturers want to make sure that money is not wasted and lawmakers tackle the real problem so we can build world-class, 21st-century infrastructure. 'Building to Win' achieves these goals and is a powerful proposal that lays out real problems and real solutions."

“Among OMA’s top policy goals is a modern, job-supporting infrastructure,” said OMA President, Eric Burkland. “We must invest in updating and expanding our multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, rails and ports, as well as our water treatment systems. Infrastructure improvement is a state and federal priority for manufacturing.”

Infrastructure will be the NAM’s signature issue going into 2017, and manufacturers are mounting a major effort now to help candidates and lawmakers in Washington understand what America needs to build to win in a competitive global economy.

Key recommendations from the agenda include the following:

- Implement strong accountability measures to ensure funds go to projects offering the greatest value for businesses, families and the economy.
- Relieve highway bottlenecks and repair America’s crumbling highways and bridges. Act now to repair and upgrade unsafe and neglected bridges.
- Create a reliable, user-based, long-term funding stream so users can have the safe, efficient highways needed.
- Quickly develop a plan to accelerate the implementation of NextGen air traffic management technology and upgrade our runways and airports to world-class standards.
- Take an expedited approach to deepen ports, upgrade aging locks and enhance intermodal connections.
- Eliminate the maintenance backlog for public transit and expand public transit reach to more communities.
- Invest in Amtrak and promote regulatory and fiscal policies that incentivize continued record levels of private capital reinvestment in our railroads.
- Create an independent, bipartisan transportation commission.
- Streamline regulations to reduce the cost of delayed infrastructure.
- Promote new energy infrastructure investments as a means of increasing U.S. infrastructure’s resilience to climate change.
- Robustly expand public–private partnerships for drinking and wastewater projects.
- Streamline regulatory processes across multiple agencies and levels of government to foster the use of cutting-edge broadband communications infrastructure.

Learn more about the “Building to Win” agenda [here](#).

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*The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) is the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Manufacturing employs more than 12 million men and women, contributes \$2.17 trillion to the U.S. economy annually, has the largest economic impact of any major sector and accounts for more than three-quarters of private-sector research and development. The NAM is the powerful voice of the manufacturing community and the leading advocate for a policy agenda that helps manufacturers compete in the global economy and create jobs across the United States. For more information about the National Association of Manufacturers or to follow us on Shopfloor, Twitter and Facebook, please visit [www.nam.org](http://www.nam.org).*

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*The mission of The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. Through the OMA, manufacturers and manufacturing stakeholders work directly with members of the Ohio General Assembly, state regulatory agencies, the judiciary community and statewide media with the sole focus of improving business conditions for manufacturers in Ohio. Visit us at [www.ohiomfg.com](http://www.ohiomfg.com).*

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