

PUBLIC POLICY GOALS: KEY MANUFACTURING TALKING POINTS

An Efficient, Competitive Ohio Tax System

Ohio's tax system must encourage investment and growth and be competitive nationally and internationally. A competitive tax system is characterized by (a) certainty, (b) equity, (c) simplicity, (d) transparency, as well as (e) economy of collections and convenience of payment.

A Lean, Productive Workers' Compensation System

An efficient and effective workers' compensation system benefits workers, employers, and the state's economy and is built on these principles: (a) injured workers receive prompt benefits that are adequate for returning to work quickly and safely, (b) rates are established on actuarial principles without political influences, (c) the system has with well-functioning insurance mechanisms, including reserving and investment practices that assure fund solvency and stability, (d) the disability management practices are best-in-class and improve service and outcomes for injured workers while lowering employer costs, and (e) the system roots out fraud, whether by employers, workers or providers.

Access to Reliable, Economical, Diverse Energy Resources

Energy policy can enhance—or hinder—Ohio's ability to attract business investment, stimulate economic growth and spur job creation, especially in manufacturing. State and federal energy policies must (a) ensure access to reliable, economical sources of energy, (b) support the development of a diverse energy resource mix, and (c) conserve energy to preserve our natural resources, while lowering cost. Policies should assure well-functioning markets that stimulate innovation and reduce costs.

A Fair, Stable, Predictable Civil Justice System

A state's legal climate can be a major inducement or deterrent to business investment, growth and job creation. Ohio's civil justice system must be rational, fair and predictable. Manufacturers must be free to innovate and pursue market opportunities without fear of unreasonable exposure to costly lawsuits, while injured parties must have full recourse to appropriate measures of justice.

A Modern Infrastructure

Investments in modern infrastructure secure jobs for the near and long term. Ohio's multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, rails and ports—as well as broadband—needs to be state of the art to support our manufacturing economy. Preserving access to and responsibly managing Ohio's water sources are fundamental. And, the state must support a pipeline infrastructure that delivers abundant energy resources from Utica and Marcellus shale plays to Ohio manufacturers and other markets.

Science-based, Technologically Achievable, and Economically Reasonable Environmental Regulations

Effective environmental regulations: (a) provide clarity, predictability and consistency, (b) are based on scientific consensus, (c) provide for common sense enforcement, and (d) incorporate careful cost-benefit analysis as part of the policymaking process. Policymakers should exercise restraint in establishing state environmental regulations that exceed federal standards. And, manufacturers understand that fair and reasonable regulations must be balanced with responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

An Adequate & Skilled Workforce

Sustained growth in manufacturing requires a sufficient population of workers who have appropriate hard and soft skills. Among initiatives that will foster talent development: (a) state policy and budgeting that supports manufacturing workforce development, (b) a system of cataloging Ohio's workforce development assets, accessible to both employers and workers, (c) adoption of industry recognized credentials, and (d) expansion of cooperative education, internships and apprenticeships.

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