

# Iowa Industry Political Action Committee (IIPAC) 2015-16 Annual Report



## Message from IIPAC Chair

Dear Colleague,

Thank you to our generous 2016 election cycle contributors and supporters who played an enormous role in helping to strengthen and unify the voice of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry's Iowa Industry Political Action Committee (IIPAC). With your contributions, IIPAC was able to support both Republican and Democrat candidates who help advocate for Iowa employers and the hundreds of thousands of workers ABI represents.



We are pleased to present to you the 2015-16 IIPAC Annual Report.

The 2016 election brought monumental changes for our state and nation. As we welcome a new presidential administration and Congress, as well as more than 20 new state legislators, we are presented with an opportunity to educate new policymakers on legislative decisions important to Iowa's business community. If you are not an IIPAC member, I encourage you to make the decision to join as we prepare for another successful and exciting year.

Sincerely,

Kirk Tyler, IIPAC Board Chair  
Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Inc.

## 2015-16 By the Numbers



# of ABI members:  
**1500**



# of contributors in 2015-16:  
**281**



\$ raised in 2015-16:  
**\$115,020.15**

# IIPAC 2015 Contributors

## Platinum Investors-\$1500 and above

Mark Hanawalt  
Roger Hargens  
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Mike Ralston  
Lori Schaefer-Weaton  
Jim Tyler  
Kirk Tyler  
Nate Weaton  
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Al and Ann Jennings  
Dennis L. Murdock  
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Paul Gregoire  
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Mike Henningsen  
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Steven J. Ovel  
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Merle Pederson  
Rich Phelan  
Dean Price  
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Kathleen and Josh Riessen  
Stephen W. Roberts  
Michael Sadler  
J. D. Schimmelpfennig  
John Schreurs  
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Thomas W. Wenstrand  
Jack Woelber  
Tom Yeoman

## Contributors-\$1-\$99

Steven Bradford  
Frank Carroll  
Timothy Greene  
Andrew Hansen  
David Kluesner  
Katie Nichols  
Charles Richardson  
Lori Thielen



# PAC Criteria for Support

Candidates are evaluated based on support for a competitive business climate and a focus on a regulatory climate conducive to job creation. Criteria used to make the Friend of Iowa Business designations include candidates' positions on issues based on interviews, stated approach to general business community concerns, voting records for incumbent candidates, as well as input from ABI members and contributors to the Iowa Industry Political Action Committee (IIPAC).



*“ABI and IIPAC strive to identify candidates for the Legislature on both sides of the aisle who understand and appreciate the challenges businesses are up against on a daily basis,” ABI President Mike Ralston said. “Our organization is confident these candidates will approach their role as elected officials with job creation and economic stability in mind.”*

IIPAC is nonpartisan and endorses both Republican and Democrat candidates for legislative offices. The IIPAC board, which is comprised of IIPAC contributors and makes the Friend of Iowa Business selections, encourages voters to consider these endorsements when evaluating which candidates will focus on economic issues and help bring jobs to Iowa when voting.

## 2015-16 IIPAC Board Members:

**Kirk Tyler**  
Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling (Chair)

**Bill Bywater**  
Economy Advertising

**John DeVries**  
Colorfx (ret)

**Steve Dust**  
Greater Cedar Valley Alliance

**Sarah Hasken**

**Kathryn Kunert**  
MidAmerican Energy

**Dennis Murdock**  
CIPCO

**Michael Sadler**  
CenturyLink

**Toby Shine**  
Shine Bros.

**Charles Sukup**  
Sukup Mfg.

**Bob Wersen**  
Interpower Corp



# IIPAC Endorsement Process

IIPAC is a state of Iowa PAC and only candidates for state office are eligible to receive contributions. The IIPAC Board of Directors meet a minimum of two times in election years to make decisions regarding endorsements and disbursements of IIPAC funds. At those meetings, the IIPAC Board and ABI public policy staff review all races and make decisions on candidate endorsements and the appropriate levels of financial support. All decisions are based on the following factors:

- ABI legislator voting records on key business issues
- Candidate questionnaire responses
- Candidate interviews
- Feedback from ABI members
- Voter registration data in the legislative districts
- District voting history
- Any internal or public polling data
- Other available local information



Special attention is given to candidates for open seats and legislators who have provided exceptional leadership in championing ABI issues. Each election, both Republican and Democrat candidates receive support from IIPAC.



# 2015-16 Legislative Accomplishments



**Federal Tax Coupling/Manufacturing Sales Tax Exemption** - This bill coupled Iowa's tax code for tax year 2015 with the federal tax law and codified a sales tax exemption for supplies used in the manufacturing process. Iowa Code now clearly states that supplies used in the manufacturing process are also exempt from sales tax, regardless of cost or useful life.



**Career and Technical Education Modernization** - The legislation codified the recommendations of the legislatively created Career and Technical Education Task Force, in which ABI participated, to modernize career and technical education in Iowa. It encourages regional partnerships, career academies and collaboration between education, community colleges and businesses.



**Transportation Infrastructure Investment** - The bill generated an additional \$215 million annually for road and bridge infrastructure by increasing the gas tax by 10 cents and raising certain motor vehicle fees. It also restricted the use of the funding for bonding to the useful life of the asset.



**Career and Technical Education Teachers** - This legislation allows a licensed practitioner who holds a career and technical endorsement on the practitioner's Iowa practitioner license and who has work experience in a career and technical occupational area as a classroom teacher in a school district or accredited nonpublic school to count those hours of teaching toward the 6,000 hours of relevant work experience required by law.



**Property Tax** - This bill made changes to laws addressing property tax assessment and notification. It allowed single properties with both commercial and residential uses to be assessed to reflect those different uses. It requires direct notification to the taxpayer when property taxes have increased due to an equalization order.



**Broadband Expansion** - This legislation aimed to incent increased access to broadband services throughout the state to businesses and residents in targeted service areas. It created a grant program and institutes property tax exemptions for internet service providers.



The graphic features a large blue arrow pointing left at the top, containing the text 'ABI Public Policy Team'. On the left side, a vertical blue line is decorated with several light blue triangles pointing right, resembling a staircase or a path.

# ABI Public Policy Team

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\*Paid for by IIPAC.