



## Iowa's Legal Climate Hurting Job Growth Business Leaders: Legal Reform Needed

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In a survey of Iowa's business leaders, more than 82% say that Iowa's legal climate is hurting job growth. The survey, conducted by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, revealed that many business leaders are dissatisfied with Iowa's legal climate and believe it is costing the state jobs in comparison to other states where legal reforms have been enacted.

"Increasing costs due to litigation and fear of litigation have clearly impacted the attitudes of job creators in Iowa," said John Gilliland, Senior Vice President of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI). "We hope this Iowa specific data will help policy makers understand the need for continued reforms to Iowa's legal climate."

One third of the business owners and managers participating in the survey have 49 or fewer employees. Another 20% have 50 to 99 employees and 33% have 100 to 499 employees. Leaders representing businesses with 500 or more employees comprise 14% of the respondents in the anonymous survey of ABI members in conjunction with the American Justice Partnership. The American Justice Partnership, an affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers, is a national nonprofit coalition of leading corporations, think tanks, foundations, trade associations, individuals, and organizations advocating for legal reform, primarily at the state level.

"This representative sample of mostly small and mid-sized companies should give Iowans interested in job growth and job retention some idea of how important the legal climate is to job creators," said Gilliland.

Four out of five surveyed say that the legal climate in Iowa increases the cost of everything consumers purchase in the state. The survey also found that nearly two-thirds of the respondents were dissatisfied with state government efforts to restore fairness and predictability to the Iowa's liability laws.

The Iowa Association of Business and Industry represents 1,300 Iowa businesses employing more than 300,000 Iowans. ABI has been the state's leading advocate for business since 1903.

The complete survey results are available at [www.iowaabi.org](http://www.iowaabi.org).

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