

The Voice of Iowa Business



*Iowa Association of
Business and Industry*

2017

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2017 Legislative Priorities

The Iowa Association of Business and Industry has proudly served as the voice of Iowa Business since 1903. As a member-driven organization, ABI's 2017 legislative priorities reflect the goals of business and community leaders in Iowa's 99 counties. Below are ABI's 2017 legislative priorities.

Workforce

ABI members have prioritized workforce through investment in Elevate Advanced Manufacturing, an initiative to educate students and the public about the opportunities and careers in manufacturing. Preparing Iowa's future workforce must include continued investment in workforce initiatives like Future Ready Iowa and Home Base Iowa and legislative efforts to implement key state and federal reforms. Further, as part of ensuring a qualified workforce, ABI encourages the legislature to enact policies that are conducive to safe workplaces and that allow employers to address drug and alcohol use, including prescription drug abuse.

Competitive Business Climate

A key component of low unemployment and a qualified workforce is a competitive business climate that will retain Iowa companies and attract new businesses and talent to the state. To that end, ABI seeks ways to simplify, streamline and modernize Iowa's laws and regulations. ABI supports state preemption of a growing patchwork of county and local government proposals to implement workforce policies, like minimum wage increases. This piecemeal approach increases administrative burdens for employers and erodes coherent economic policy. Additionally, ABI supports efforts to simplify and reform Iowa's tax code, without shifting the burden among classes of taxpayers.

Environmental Investment and Accountability

A quality environment not only enhances the attractiveness of Iowa as a location for business and industry, but it also adds to the quality of life and enjoyment of all who live and work here. ABI supports legislation that protects and improves the quality of our state's natural resources, while supporting business and industry growth and improving the quality of life for all Iowans. Investment of state dollars in water and air quality programs and departmental services should be carefully targeted, and provide for accountability and return on investment.

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