



## **Tax Reform**

ABI supports efforts to reform the tax code, while retaining provisions that encourage economic growth and job creation. Global competitiveness is an issue facing Iowa companies and the United States must take immediate action to be more competitive. ABI members, large and small want to see tax reform that lowers the rates and encourages business investment in the U.S. Whether ABI members are organized as corporations, or pass-through entities filing as individuals, it's clear that changes need to be made to the existing system. A few examples of issues that are important to ABI members attending congressional meetings include: modernizing international tax rules; encouraging investment through cost recovery and interest deductibility; a strong and permanent research and development incentive; and maintaining incentives that support local communities, especially in rural Iowa.

## **Workforce Challenges**

ABI members continue to have challenges finding and retaining good employees. Iowa companies are facing a skilled workforce shortage. ABI is working proactively through Elevate Iowa to educate young students and parents about the benefits of working in advanced manufacturing. Whether a large company or a small manufacturer, Iowa businesses are looking for employees. Investing in STEM and career and technical educational programs that focus on educating a skilled workforce are critical to the success of Iowa's economy. Additionally, we encourage Congress to develop and implement an equitable immigration control policy, which is extremely important to the future of Iowa businesses.

## **Controlling Health Care Costs**

ABI companies take pride in offering quality healthcare to their employees and see the benefit as a recruitment and retention tool for their workforce. ABI supports a predictable, consumer-driven, free market employee benefit system emphasizing quality service and competitive pricing. ABI opposes establishing additional health care mandates which drive up the cost of service and removes consumer choice. ABI supports the repeal of the HIIT tax, "Cadillac" tax and the medical device tax.

## **Regulatory Challenges**

ABI members have challenges every day that don't make the front page of the newspaper, but can substantially increase the cost of doing business and deter growth. New regulations should be based on sound science (when scientific matters are involved), include strong stakeholder input and economic impacts should be considered prior to being adopted. Some examples of legislative or rule changes that would reduce costs and remove barriers to benefit ABI members include: changing EPA's onerous regulations for storm water plans; reducing the softwood lumber tariff; and passing the Save Local Business Act to clarify joint employer status.