



2018-2022

**POLICY AND
POSITION STATEMENTS**

This manual is a record of policies and positions taken by the
Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
over the past five years, and is current through December 2022.

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MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS

2018

2019

2020

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2018 Legislative Agenda

Serving as a progressive advocate for business, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports and encourages work at all levels of government to stimulate jobs; supports non-regressive sources of revenue without levying a disproportionate burden on any individual segment of Alabama's economy; seeks efficiencies in government and protects fundamental public services and infrastructure. The members of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and Mobile's economic development partners have identified the following issues, policies and appropriations as fundamental to Alabama's progress because they will help to build additional jobs and a more positive business climate in the Mobile area.

Economic Development & Tax

- ★ In order to keep Alabama competitive with other Southern states and continue business investment and job growth, continue proven and accountable economic development incentives such as the Alabama Historic Tax Credit program, New Markets Development Tax Credit program, and the Alabama Film Credit. And strongly encourage Members of Congress to keep the Historic Tax Credit in the federal tax code. (*carried over*)
- ★ Maintain federal military contracts with Mobile-area based employers, particularly for the construction of Austal USA's Frigate Littoral Combat Ships and Expeditionary Fast Transport vessels and the future small Surface Combatant ships, as well as Ingalls Shipbuilding's LHA/LPD Amphibious Assault Ships, destroyers and Coast Guard cutters. (*carried over*)
- ★ Support fair trade and investment agreements that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers, and increase foreign direct investment creating a level playing field to put Mobile area families, businesses, and workers first and improving the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters. (*updated*)
- ★ Support all efforts to decrease workers' compensation medical costs in Alabama by decreasing fraud in unemployment and workers' compensation claims with stronger statutes:
 - Maintain current Alabama laws that support an employer's right to choose the treating physician and second physician in workers' compensation claims.
 - Enact statutes that allow businesses to perform the Workman's Compensation claim checks prior to hire. (*carried over - moved from Small Business to Economic Development*)
- ★ **Support the continuation of federal payments to Alabama and Mobile and Baldwin counties from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) in 2018 federal budgets. Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama. (*new*)**
- ★ Support federal immigration reform that will secure our borders, establish reasonable and effective visa policies/procedures, and recognize the need to attract professional and highly-valued workers to the United States. (*carried over*)

- ★ Preserve jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations that increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth. *(carried over)*

Education & Workforce Training

- ★ Continue to adequately fund Alabama's Education budget, including Alabama's First Class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, in order to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college and career ready graduates; maintain high academic standards and expectations for all Alabama students such as those found in the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. *(carried over)*
- ★ Seek a fiscal year 2019 state budget appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's successful enrollment growth and increased graduation rates over the past ten years, and additional funding to support USA Health and its specialized health care mission. *(updated)*
- ★ **Support funding to establish a program coordinated by the University of South Alabama to support the needs of communities in Southwest Alabama to recruit, train and retain the more than 5,000 seasonal workers needed for the regions hospitality industry. The program would also focus on placing unemployed young Mobilians in unfilled jobs on the Alabama Coast. *(new)***
- ★ **Continue to identify needs and support demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime and advanced manufacturing. *(new)***
- ★ **Support measures to address the growing opioid crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety and overall community health. *(new)***

Energy, Environment & Infrastructure

- ★ Support the funding and construction of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway widening project and partner with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to actively seek construction funding through **Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA)** Grants and other sources. *(updated)*
- ★ Continued support to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program in support of the deepening and widening and the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel; maintain necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels. *(carried over)*
- ★ **The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. The Chamber recognizes that there is a gap between current state resources and what is required to address the highway, bridge, and other road maintenance and capital needs in Alabama today and in the future,**

specifically for critical needs such as the completion of the four-laning U.S. Highway 98. *(new – position adopted mid-session 2017)*

- ★ In order to ensure the consistent and bi-partisan management of the planning, building and maintaining of the state’s multimodal transportation system and the long-term management of state transportation planning and revenues, the Mobile Area Chamber supports legislation to allow for a board-governance structure and a non-political, board-appointed director of the Alabama Department of Transportation. *(new)*

Small Business and Entrepreneurial Growth

- ★ Encourage the creation of a cabinet level position in the executive branch to focus on the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama. *(new)*
- ★ Support the growth and development of Mobile’s entrepreneurial community and Innovation PortAL’s mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with early state funding opportunities such as the State of Alabama Full Sail fund. The Full Sail entrepreneurial fund will provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients as well as enable the engagement of local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges. *(new)*
- ★ To support the growing 'social enterprises' entrepreneurial demand in Alabama, expand the legal definition of a Limited Liability Company in Alabama’s code to include a low-profit limited liability company, or ‘L3C’ and a Benefit Corporation or ‘B Corp’, for-profit, social-benefit corporate entity. *(new)*
- ★ To support the growth and expansion of local restaurants and consumer offerings in the restaurant industry’s fastest growing segment, work to achieve the local authority necessary to implement the statewide “Brunch Bill” passed in 2017 that allows for 10:00 am on-premises alcohol sales on Sunday. *(new)*
- ★ In order to avoid excessive and frivolous lawsuits and ensure fully-accessible public buildings and spaces, close the loophole in Title III of the American with Disabilities Act, by providing clearer rules for identifying and correcting ADA access violations and allowing business and property owners the opportunity to address and correct minor ADA infractions in a defined period of time, prior to an allowable civil law suit. *(carried over)*
- ★ Protect an employer’s right to provide a safe workplace by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company or private property. *(carried over)*

Healthcare

- ★ Support a health provider-driven approach to reforming Alabama’s current Medicaid program to ensure access to care, control costs and maximize the return of Alabama’s tax dollars to the state. *(updated)*

- ★ Seek an equitable resolution on the Medicare wage index issue so that hospitals in the region will be fairly reimbursed for the services they provide to the Medicare population. *(carried over)*
- ★ Seek a permanent funding source for Mobile's Programs for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) and the expansion of such programs across the state in order to draw down increased federal funds for the medical care of the state's growing nursing home population at a cost savings to Medicaid. *(carried over)*

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2019 LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS

WE ARE THE CHAMBER, AND WE HAVE SERVED AS MOBILE'S PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS ADVOCATE SINCE 1836. MOBILE CONNECTS ALABAMA TO THE WORLD, AND THE CHAMBER IS HERE TO LOBBY FOR LEGISLATION THAT GROWS MOBILE AND ALABAMA'S INFLUENCE IN THE REGION, ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

- ★ Primarily through deepening and widening the Port of Mobile and building the I-10 bridge, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. The Chamber recognizes that there is a gap between current state resources and what is required to address the highway, bridge, and other road maintenance and capital needs in Alabama today and in the future, specifically for critical needs such as the completion of the four-laning U.S. Highway 98.
- ★ Advocate for adequately funding Alabama's Education budget, including Alabama's first class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, in order to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college and career ready graduates; maintain high academic standards and expectations for all Alabama students such as those found in the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards.
- ★ Seek a fiscal year 2020 state budget appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's successful growth and increased graduation rates over the past ten years, and additional funding to support USA Health and its specialized health care mission.
- ★ Support funding to establish a program coordinated by the University of South Alabama to address the shortfall in emergency room physicians and other emergency healthcare professionals in the State of Alabama.
- ★ In order to ensure the consistent and bi-partisan management of the planning, building and maintaining of the state's multimodal transportation system and the long-term management of state transportation planning and revenues, the Mobile Area Chamber supports legislation to allow for a board-governance structure and a non-political, board-appointed director of the Alabama Department of Transportation.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, SMALL BUSINESSES

- ★ Preserve jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations that increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.
- ★ Encourage the creation of a cabinet level position in the executive branch to focus on the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama.

- ★ Support the growth and development of Mobile’s entrepreneurial community and Innovation PortAL’s mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with early state funding opportunities such as the State of Alabama Full Sail fund. The Full Sail entrepreneurial fund will provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients, as well as enable the engagement of local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges.
- ★ To support the growing 'social enterprises' entrepreneurial demand in Alabama, expand the legal definition of a Limited Liability Company in Alabama’s code to include a low-profit limited liability company, or ‘L3C’ and a Benefit Corporation or ‘B Corp’, for-profit, social-benefit corporate entity.
- ★ To support the growth and expansion of local restaurants and consumer offerings in the restaurant industry’s fastest growing segment, work to achieve the local authority necessary to implement the statewide “Brunch Bill” passed in 2017 that allows for 10:00 am on-premises alcohol sales on Sunday.
- ★ In order to avoid excessive and frivolous lawsuits and ensure fully-accessible public buildings and spaces, close the loophole in Title III of the American with Disabilities Act, by providing clearer rules for identifying and correcting ADA access violations and allowing business and property owners the opportunity to address and correct minor ADA infractions in a defined period of time, prior to an allowable civil law suit.
- ★ Protect an employer’s right to provide a safe workplace by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company or private property.
- ★ Support all efforts to decrease workers’ compensation medical costs in Alabama by decreasing fraud in unemployment and workers’ compensation claims with stronger statutes:
 - Maintain current Alabama laws that support an employer's right to choose the treating physician and second physician in workers’ compensation claims.
 - Enact statutes that allow businesses to perform the Workman’s Compensation claim checks prior to hire.

MADE BY ALABAMA, FOR AMERICA and THE WORLD

- ★ Maintain federal military contracts with Mobile-area employers, particularly for the construction of Austal USA’s Frigate, Littoral Combat Ships, Expeditionary Fast Transport vessels, autonomous vehicle development and post-delivery support to the U.S. Navy, as well as Ingalls Shipbuilding’s LHA/LPD Amphibious Assault Ships, destroyers and Coast Guard cutters.
- ★ Support fair trade and investment agreements that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers, and increase foreign direct investment creating a level playing field to put Mobile area families, businesses, and workers first and improving the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.

KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- ★ Continued support to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program in support of the deepening and widening and the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel; maintain necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels.
- ★ Support the funding and construction of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway widening project and partner with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to actively seek construction funding through Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants and other sources.
- ★ Advocate for legislation to extend the application of confidential reporting by site selectors thereby giving Mobile-area Economic Developers the opportunity to engage a variety of resources when recruiting companies and creating jobs for Alabama.

A HEALTHY ALABAMA

- ★ Support measures to address the growing opioid crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety and overall community health.
- ★ Support a provider-driven approach to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program to ensure access to care, control costs and maximize the return of Alabama's tax dollars to the state.
- ★ Seek an equitable resolution on the Medicare wage index issue so that hospitals in the region will be fairly reimbursed for the services they provide to the Medicare population.
- ★ Seek a permanent funding source for Mobile's Programs for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) and the expansion of such programs across the state in order to draw down increased federal funds for the medical care of the state's growing nursing home population at a cost savings to Medicaid.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

- ★ Support the continuation of federal payments to Alabama and Mobile and Baldwin counties from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) in 2018 federal budgets. Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama.

TRAINING and ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

Continue to identify needs and support demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime and advanced manufacturing.

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2020 LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS

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FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

- ★ Primarily through deepening and widening the Port of Mobile and building the I-10 bridge, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. The Chamber recognizes there is a gap between current state resources and what is required to address the highway, bridge, and other road maintenance and capital needs in Alabama today and in the future, specifically for critical needs such as completing the four-laning of U.S. Highway 98.
- ★ Advocate for adequately funding Alabama's Education budget, including Alabama's first-class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, in order to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college and career-ready graduates; maintain high academic standards and expectations for all Alabama students such as those found in the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards or Common Core.
- ★ Seek the fiscal year 2021 state budget appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's positive impact on its students, community and our region, along with additional funding to support USA Health in recognition of its unique mission as the region's only health care provider with a Level One Trauma Center, Burn Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care facility.
- ★ Support a fiscal year 2021 state budget appropriation for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab that reflects the institution's increased state-wide student and faculty participation in its nationally acclaimed education and research programs and supports the needed modernization of infrastructure to meet future programmatic growth.
- ★ In order to ensure the consistent and bi-partisan management of the planning, building and maintaining of the state's multimodal transportation system and the long-term management of state transportation planning and revenues, the Mobile Area Chamber supports legislation to allow for a board-governance structure and a non-political, board-appointed director of the Alabama Department of Transportation.
- ★ Advocate for a "yes" vote on a November 2020 statewide amendment to recompile Alabama's state Constitution, removing racist language and redundancy. Alabama legislators unanimously approved the amendment during the 2019 legislative session. The recompiling will be done by Alabama Legislative Services and must be approved by the legislators and the voters in 2022.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, SMALL BUSINESSES

- ★ Preserve jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations that increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.
- ★ Encourage the creation of a cabinet-level position in the executive branch to focus on the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama.
- ★ Support the growth and development of Mobile's entrepreneurial community and Innovation PortAL's mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with early state funding opportunities such as the State of Alabama Full Sail fund. The Full Sail entrepreneurial fund will provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients, as well as enable the engagement of local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges.
- ★ In order to avoid excessive and frivolous lawsuits and ensure fully-accessible public buildings and spaces, close the loophole in Title III of the American with Disabilities Act, by providing clearer rules for identifying and correcting ADA access violations and allowing business and property owners the opportunity to address and correct minor ADA infractions in a defined period of time, prior to an allowable civil law suit.
- ★ Protect an employer's right to provide a safe workplace by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company or private property.
- ★ Support all efforts to decrease workers' compensation medical costs in Alabama by decreasing fraud in unemployment and workers' compensation claims with stronger statutes:
 - Maintain current Alabama laws that support an employer's right to choose the treating physician and second physician in workers' compensation claims.
 - Enact statutes that allow businesses to perform the Workman's Compensation claim checks prior to hire.

MADE BY ALABAMA, FOR AMERICA and THE WORLD

- ★ Maintain federal military contracts with Mobile-area employers, particularly the construction of Austal USA's Littoral Combat Ships, Expeditionary Fast Transport vessels, autonomous vehicle development and post-delivery support to the U.S. Navy.
- ★ Support Austal USA's bid to build the US Navy's Frigate and increase employment in Mobile.
- ★ Support fair trade and investment policy that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers, and increase foreign direct investment creating a level playing field to put Mobile area families, businesses, and workers first and improving the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.

Advocate

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS

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FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

- * As businesses continue to operate and provide their services to the community, they must do so without the threat of unwarranted lawsuits associated with coronavirus. The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports codifying the Governor's Safe Harbor Proclamation to provide businesses and healthcare providers protection against civil liability resulting from the contraction of the coronavirus.
- * The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. The Chamber recognizes there is a gap between current state resources and what is required to address the highway, bridge, and other road maintenance and capital needs in Alabama today and in the future, specifically for critical needs such as building the I-10 Mobile River bridge and completing the four-laning of U.S. Highway 98.
- * Advocate for adequately funding Alabama's Education budget, including Alabama's first-class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, in order to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college and career ready graduates; maintain high academic standards and expectations for all Alabama students such as those found in the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards or Common Core.
- * Seek a fiscal year 2022 state budget appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's positive impact on its students, community and our region, along with additional funding to support USA Health in recognition of its unique mission as the region's only health care provider with a Level One Trauma Center, Burn Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care facility.
- * Advocate for the official recognition of Dauphin Island Sea Lab Estuarium as the

Aquarium of Alabama and support a fiscal year 2022 state budget appropriation for DISL that reflects the institution's increased state-wide student and faculty participation in its nationally acclaimed education and research programs and supports the needed modernization of infrastructure to meet future programmatic growth.

- * In order to ensure the consistent and bi-partisan management of the planning, building and maintaining of the state's multimodal transportation system and the long-term management of state transportation planning and revenues, the Mobile Area Chamber supports legislation to allow for a tax-exempt Mobile Airport Authority.
- * Preserve the integrity of Alabama's First Congressional District through the 2021 redistricting process. It is imperative that Mobile and Baldwin counties remain together as a congressional district to build upon – and not harm – the united regional and business leadership that is unique to southwest Alabama.
- * Protect all businesses by reversing the judicially created “discovery rule” for allegations of exposure in toxic tort cases and return to the traditional rule in Alabama that the statute of limitations for allegations of personal injury due to exposure is two years from the date of the last exposure.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

- * Preserve jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations that increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.
- * Encourage the representation and engagement of the Alabama Innovation Commission and the Alabama STEM Council to improve the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama as well as workforce development opportunities across the state.
- * Support the growth and development of Mobile's entrepreneurial community and Innovation Portal's mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with state funding opportunities. Promote efforts to provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients, as well as enable the engagement of local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges.
- * In order to avoid excessive and frivolous lawsuits and ensure fully-accessible public buildings and spaces, close the loophole in Title III of the American with Disabilities Act, by providing clearer rules for identifying and correcting ADA access violations and allowing business and property owners the opportunity to address and correct minor ADA infractions in a defined period of time, prior to an allowable civil law suit.
- * Protect an employer's right to provide a safe workplace by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company or private property.
- * Support measures to replenish the state's unemployment insurance trust fund that mitigates the impact of increased taxes on Alabama businesses, particularly small businesses, that are facing unprecedented unemployment insurance tax increases due to the ongoing pandemic.
- * Ensure small businesses are truly protected from being frivolously named in lawsuits as part of forum shopping by supporting legislation to amended Ala. Code 6-5-501(2)(a)

and 6-5-521 to make clear that the only exception to the immunity of innocent distributors is independent torts wholly unrelated to product liability claims.

MADE BY ALABAMA, FOR AMERICA and THE WORLD

- * Maintain federal military contracts with Mobile-area employers, particularly the Navy's shipbuilding blueprint for the future which includes current and future small surface combatants and auxiliary ships to incorporate autonomous and unmanned surface vehicles and Expeditionary Fast Transports.
- * Support free and fair trade and investment policies that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers, and increase foreign direct investment creating a level playing field to put Mobile area families, businesses, and workers first and improving the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.

KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- * Continued support to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program in support of the deepening and widening and the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel; maintain necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels.
- * Support the funding and construction of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and partner with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to actively seek construction funding through Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants and other sources.
- * Support the extension of the state income tax credit through 2029 for rehabilitation of certified historic structures, a proven incentive for bringing more investment capital into projects that will use it directly for job creation and sustained economic activity.
- * Continued support for the renewal of economic development tax incentives, the Alabama Jobs Act and the Growing Alabama Tax Credit. These programs have become the foundation of the state's economic development efforts, and they have been tied to the state's largest new industry announcements in recent years.

A HEALTHY ALABAMA

- * Support measures to address the growing opioid crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety and overall community health.
- * Support a provider-driven approach to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program to ensure access to care, control costs and maximize the return of Alabama's tax dollars to the state.
- * Seek a permanent funding source for Mobile's Programs for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) and the expansion of such programs across the state in order to draw down increased federal funds for the medical care of the state's growing nursing home population at a cost savings to Medicaid.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

- * Support the continuation of federal payments to Alabama, specifically Mobile and Baldwin counties, from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama.

TRAINING and ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

- * Continue to identify needs and support demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime and advanced manufacturing.
- * As prison reform is addressed, advocate for reentry and job skills training programs to meet the need for able-bodied workers in our region.



2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce has served as the Mobile Bay Area's progressive business advocate since 1836. Mobile connects Alabama to the world, and the Chamber is here to advocate for legislation that grows Mobile and Alabama's influence in the region, across the country and around the world.

FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. The Chamber recognizes there is a gap between current state resources and what is required to address the highway, bridge, and other road maintenance and capital needs in Alabama today and in the future, specifically for critical needs such as building the I-10 Mobile River bridge and completing the four-laning of U.S. Highway 98 from Mobile's city-limits to the Mississippi state line.

Work in support of the Mobile Airport Authority's efforts to secure final funding of Mobile's new downtown airport at the Brookley Aeroplex.

Advocate for adequately funding Alabama's Education budget, including Alabama's first-class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, in order to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college and career ready graduates; maintain high academic standards and expectations for all Alabama students such as those found in the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards or Common Core.

Support a fiscal year 2023 state budget appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's positive impact on its students, community and our region, along with additional funding to support USA Health in recognition of its unique mission as the region's only academic health care provider with a Level One Trauma Center, Burn Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care facility.

Preserve the integrity of Alabama's First Congressional District through the 2021 redistricting process. It is imperative that Mobile and Baldwin counties remain together as a congressional district to build upon – and not harm – the united regional and business leadership that is unique to southwest Alabama.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

Preserve jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations that increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.

Encourage the representation and engagement of the Alabama Innovation Commission and the Alabama STEM Council to improve the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama as well as workforce development opportunities across the state.

Support the growth and development of Mobile's entrepreneurial community and Innovation Portal's mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with state funding opportunities. Promote efforts to provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients, as well as enable the engagement of local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges.

Protect an employer's right to provide a safe workplace by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company property.

Oppose any efforts to eliminate the necessity of obtaining a concealed carry permit.

Support measures to replenish the state's unemployment insurance trust fund that mitigates the impact of increased taxes on Alabama businesses, particularly small businesses, that are facing unprecedented unemployment insurance tax increases due to the ongoing pandemic.

A HEALTHY ALABAMA

Support measures to address the growing opioid crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety and overall community health.

Support a provider-driven approach to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program to ensure access to care, control costs and maximize the return of Alabama's tax dollars to the state.

Seek a permanent funding source for Mobile's Programs for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) and the expansion of such programs across the state in order to draw down increased federal funds for the medical care of the state's growing nursing home population at a cost savings to Medicaid.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Support the continuation of federal payments to Alabama, specifically Mobile and Baldwin counties, from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama.

Advocate for investments in climate resilient infrastructure like a new I-10 bridge in an effort to mitigate damage from future storms.

KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce continues to advocate for the protection of businesses, both large and small, from legislation that would open the door to frivolous lawsuits, especially coronavirus-related litigation.

Advocate for legislation that protects existing business infrastructure and creates an attractive environment for economic development, ensuring Alabama is widely known as a business-friendly state.

Support the funding and construction of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation to actively seek construction funding through Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants and other sources.

Support all efforts to ensure a continue historic tax credit program for certified historic structures, a proven incentive for bringing more investment capital into projects that will positively impact job creation and promote sustained economic activity.

Support the renewal of the tax exemption for certain materials used in the reconfiguration of aircraft - materials which ultimately become part of the final, completed aircraft.

Support growth in the film and music industry in the State of Alabama by advocating for raising the \$20M incentive cap.

Continue support to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program in support of the deepening and widening and the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel; maintain necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels.

TRAINING & ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

Continue to identify needs and support demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime, advanced manufacturing and tourism.

Work to meet the need for able-bodied workers in our region by advocating for reentry and job skills training programs for those currently in correctional facilities, serving sentences for non-violent crimes.

MADE BY ALABAMA, FOR AMERICA & THE WORLD

Maintain federal military contracts with Mobile-area employers, particularly the Navy's shipbuilding blueprint for the future which includes current and future small surface combatants and auxiliary ships to incorporate autonomous and unmanned surface vehicles and Expeditionary Fast Transports.

Support free and fair trade and investment policies that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers, and increase foreign direct investment creating a level playing field to put Mobile area families, businesses, and workers first and improving the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.



**THE MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTS A "YES"
VOTE ON THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018 REFERENDUM TO ADDRESS CRITICAL
ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS WITHIN MOBILE COUNTY. THESE
PROJECTS ARE PAID FOR BY A 6.5 MILLS PORTION OF THE AD
VALOREM TAXES COLLECTED BY MOBILE COUNTY.**

**MOBILE COUNTY
COMMISSION 2018
TRANSPORTATION
PAY-AS-YOU-GO REFERENDUM**

The MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION directed the Mobile County Engineering Department to prepare the following Engineering Report for the proposed 2018 Transportation Pay-As-You-Go Program.

**PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS
MOBILE COUNTY 2018 TRANSPORTATION**

PAY-AS-YOU-GO PROGRAM FUNDS	\$60,000,000
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$29,329,600
TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$89,329,600

\$30 million in countywide road and bridge improvement projects have been selected by the Commission, regardless of the district or municipality in which they are located. Three of the selected countywide projects will receive matching federal funds, providing a supplement of \$29.3 million for the 2018 program. Also, an additional \$30 million is divided among the three Commission Districts for road and bridge projects within all eleven municipalities and within unincorporated areas of the County.

The Mobile County 2018 Transportation Pay-As-You-Go Program totals \$89.3 million for road and bridge improvements. Funding for the 2018 program will require voter approval in a countywide referendum on November 6, 2018.

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports a "YES" vote on the November 6, 2018 referendum to address critical road and bridge projects within Mobile County. These projects are paid for by a 6.5 mills portion of the ad valorem taxes collected by Mobile County.

ALABAMA TAXPAYERS' BILL OF RIGHTS II
Statement of Support for HB105 sponsored by Rep. Paul DeMarco.

Support legislation to create the Alabama Tax Appeals Commission (ATAC) as an independent state tax agency, headed by a judge selected in a non-partisan manner who has specific training in state and local taxation; and seek passage of the Alabama Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II, an update and expansion of the original landmark legislation enacted in 1992, which extends the appeal deadlines for taxpayers.

This legislation amends a number of elements that were either not addressed or have not been successful from the original Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Changes to the law are mostly in favor of the taxpayer and include:

- Under current law, an Alabama taxpayer dispute is heard by an Administrative Law Judge that works under the Alabama Law Division. Currently, the Alabama Law Division acts as a department of the Department of Revenue, the party adverse to the taxpayer. While there is no reason to believe that the Administrative Law judge is biased in favor of his employer, (in fact, history of rulings clearly shows his independence), it does give the appearance of unfairness.
- **Alabama Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II** makes the Alabama Law Division, and its presiding judge, an independent body by creating the Alabama Tax Appeals Commission. It abolishes the current Administrative Law Division of the Alabama Department of Revenue and transfers both the personnel and equipment to a newly-formed state agency, under the executive branch. Without such a change Alabama will remain in the distinct minority of states that lack an independent tax appeals tribunal. Alabama received a "D" on the latest State Tax Due Process Scorecard issued by the Council on State Taxation, primarily for this reason.
- In addition to extending the taxpayer's appeal period from 30 days to 60 days, **Alabama Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II** aligns many of Alabama's tax penalties, regulations and statute of limitations to those of the federal tax laws.
- The Business Associations' Tax Coalition, the Business Council of Alabama, the Alabama Society of CPAs, the Birmingham Business Alliance, the Alabama State Bar, Eagle Forum, the American Bar Association, the Council on State Taxation and the National Taxpayers Union have all endorsed these changes. The Legislative Fiscal Office scored last year's version of the bill, HB 427, as revenue neutral.

**Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Position Statement on Trade and Tariffs**

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has a longstanding history of support for fair trade practices and investment agreements that expand access to international markets and reduce trade barriers. The Chamber calls for trade policies to increase foreign direct investment and create a level playing field to improve the competitiveness of Alabama exporters. The Chamber remains concerned about tariffs which affect raw material such as aluminum and steel. These tariffs could adversely impact our manufacturing sector and impede the ability to recruit new investment to Mobile. Additionally, there could be unintended consequences of retaliation from our trade partners, and damage to our international relationships and port economy.

4/27/18

POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCING COMMERCIAL AVIATION IN THE MOBILE AREA

For many reasons including expensive airfares, difficult airport access and limited non-stop flight options, Mobile Regional Airport only captures 53% of passengers in its catchment area. Total enplanements at Mobile Regional are down 28.5% from 1990 (396,393) to 2016 (283,309). In comparison, total enplanements at Pensacola International Airport, Mobile's most direct competitor, are up 81.8% from 1990 (433,766) to 2016 (788,517).

A 2018 Mobile Airport Authority systems study shows that by moving commercial air service from Mobile Regional Airport to the Mobile Downtown Airport, the Mobile area will enjoy increased total enplanements, paving the way for a more robust and competitive commercial air service market that will yield additional direct and non-stop flight options, more low-cost carriers and lower ticket prices. In fact, numerous low-cost carriers have recently expressed interest in providing commercial air service from Mobile Downtown Airport.

The estimated net benefit over the next 20 years of moving commercial air service from Mobile Regional to Mobile Downtown Airport is \$235 million for Mobile County; \$1.1 billion for the city of Mobile; \$56.4 million for Mobile County Public Schools and \$451.2 million for the state of Alabama.

Given these reasons, the Board of Directors supports a planning process by the Mobile Airport Authority to further explore the transition of commercial air service from Mobile Regional Airport to the Mobile Downtown Airport.

Done this 28th day of June 2018.

**POSITION STATEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
ON-CAMPUS STADIUM**

The University of South Alabama has become a major part of Mobile's economy and provides a multi-billion dollar impact to the Mobile area on an annual basis. The University of South Alabama's continued maturation has grown to the point of needing an on-campus athletic stadium. On-campus athletic events will positively impact the expansion of the hospitality industry and tax revenues throughout the city.

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports the University of South Alabama's efforts to construct an on-campus stadium, while also supporting the redevelopment and investment in an appropriate facility at the current site of Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

Done this 28th day of June 2018.

SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF DANCE 75th ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS: In 1943, Sheffield School of Dance was founded by Mary Lou Sheffield-Noletto; and

WHEREAS: The facility has grown from a small one room facility to a state of the art studio with three locations throughout Mobile / Baldwin metro area; and

WHEREAS: The school serves nearly 500 students of all ages and levels; and

WHEREAS: Over the years, Mary Lou Sheffield-Noletto has touched the lives of thousands of children; and

WHEREAS: The staff of Sheffield School of Dance promises to instill a passion and love for the beautiful art of dance to all; and

WHEREAS: Sheffield School of Dance is the 2016 and 2017 Nappie Award winner for “Best Dance Studio” in Mobile and Baldwin County;

WHEREAS: Sheffield School of Dance has been a member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce since 1994; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes and congratulates Sheffield School of Dance on 75 years of successful operation and support of Mobile’s economy and community.

Done this 28th day of June, 2018.

Brian Willman, Chair of the Board

William B. Sisson, President and CEO

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO REPRESENTATIVE JAMES BUSKEY

WHEREAS: James Buskey, a native of South Alabama, was elected to serve the citizens of House District 99 in 1976; and

WHEREAS: James Buskey earned degrees from Alabama State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Colorado in Boulder; and

WHEREAS: James Buskey is a retired school administrator from E.S. Chastang Middle School, serves as an organizer and director of the Franklin Memorial Clinic, and is an organizer and former director of the Commonwealth National Bank; and

WHEREAS: James Buskey was instrumental in the passing of legislation which changed Mobile's city government to a Mayor / Council form in 1985; and

WHEREAS: James Buskey passed the Sickle Cell Oversight and Regulatory Commission bill, has been helping to get the appropriation to sickle cell to its present level and is known as the godfather of Sickle Cell in Alabama by the University of South Alabama Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program, and

WHEREAS: James Buskey recently sponsored the Entertainment District bill, which started the current revitalization of Downtown Mobile;

WHEREAS: James Buskey most recently sponsored the Sidewalk Sales bill so alcohol could be served on adjacent sidewalks, as well as sponsoring the Brunch bill, which allows on-premises sales of alcohol on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Representative James Buskey for his leadership and dedication to the betterment of South Alabama and its citizenry, leaving a benchmark of progress that will carry the region to future prosperity.

Done this 16th day of August 2018.

Brian Willman, Chairman of the Board

William B. Sisson, President and CEO

**Position Statement in Support of
Deepening and Widening the Mobile Ship Channel
September 27, 2018**

The Port of Mobile (Port) is a tremendous economic engine, generating over 134,000 direct and indirect jobs, over \$486 million in direct and indirect tax impact, and yielding a total economic value of over \$22.4 billion.

The Port's current channel depth is 45 feet to the tunnels and 40 feet in the Mobile River harbor. Most of the Mobile Ship Channel connecting the Gulf of Mexico to the Port is currently 45 feet deep and 400 feet wide. Larger cargo ships which require additional depth are becoming the norm and the Mobile container terminal is a fast-growing part of the Port's business. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is considering a \$388 million plan to enlarge the Mobile Ship Channel for the Port to remain competitive.

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has long supported "infrastructure funding and legislative initiatives that improve the prospect of future economic success, including improvements to the port, as well as strategic transportation infrastructure needs" and the Chamber's current legislative agenda calls for "Continued support to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program in support of the deepening and widening and annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel."

Given these reasons, the Board of Directors of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce fully supports the Corps of Engineers plan to deepen and widen the Mobile Ship Channel to help the Port of Mobile stay competitive and continue to benefit Mobile's economy.

Done this 27th day of September 2018

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The undersigned Matthew B. Hariel, as Vice President of Finance and Operations of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (the “Chamber”) hereby certifies that the resolutions attached hereto were duly adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber on October 18, 2018, and that such resolutions have not been modified or rescinded as of the date hereof.

WHEREAS, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, an Alabama non-profit corporation (the “Chamber”), desires to make application to the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (the “EDA”) for a public works grant; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Chamber (the “Board”) believes it to be fair, advisable, and in the best interests of the Chamber for the Chamber to make application for such grant, and if awarded, to accept and administer such grant subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chamber be, and it hereby is, authorized and approved to make application to the EDA for a grant in an amount up to \$6,384,916.00 including \$4,853,570.00 federal funds and \$1,941,428 matching funds; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that WILLIAM B. SISSON, as President and CEO, be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the EDA all such applications, documents, contracts, instruments, reports, financial information and other forms as he, as such President and CEO, deems advisable and necessary in connection with obtaining and administering said grant; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in the event a grant is awarded to the Chamber by the EDA, the Chamber is authorized to accept such grant on such terms and conditions as WILLIAM B. SISSON, as President and CEO of the Chamber, may, in his discretion, deem appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions heretofore taken by WILLIAM B. SISSON, as President and CEO of the Chamber, in connection with the EDA grant, including, without limitation, the execution and delivery of any instruments or other documents as he shall have determined to be necessary or appropriate in connection with such grant application and administration, are hereby authorized, ratified, confirmed and approved.

Done this 18th day of October 2018.

Matthew B. Hariel, Vice President of Finance and Operations



For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact:
Susan Rak-Blanchard
Director, Communications & Marketing
251.431.8641

Mobile Area Chamber Adds Support for Gov. Ivey's Rebuild Alabama Bill

- Chamber Reinforces the Need for Infrastructure Funding
- Infrastructure Key to Mobile's Economic Development Success

[Mobile, Ala., 03.07.2019] – The Mobile Area Chamber is joining several other chambers of commerce across the state this week in supporting Gov. Kay Ivey's Rebuild Alabama bill. The bill introduces a 10-cent gas tax to be implemented over three years to fund maintenance or construction of roads and bridges, provide match funds for federal road or bridge projects and designate monies to improve the ship channel at the state's only deepwater port.

The Chamber continued to call for funding for infrastructure improvements, including the Port of Mobile and a new I-10 bridge and Bayway project, when it released its 2019 Legislative Agenda earlier this year.

"Infrastructure is among our greatest assets and key to our economic development success," said Bill Sisson, the Chamber's president and CEO. "The Port of Mobile is the gateway for goods to reach every corner of our state and for Alabama's exports to reach the world. Without an investment in infrastructure, not only will the port's capacity be capped, but the roads and rails moving products throughout the state and across the county will continue to deteriorate, eventually impeding commerce," he added.

"All 67 counties depend on Alabama's seaport to export goods around the world. Whether it's poultry products from Sand Mountain, auto components, coal from Walker county or the other products made by men and women across the state, the Alabama seaport is a critical part of their business plan to compete worldwide. The infrastructure improvements we envision will make Alabama's seaport more competitive and better able to support manufacturing and other industries across every part of Alabama," said Jimmy Lyons, director and CEO of the Alabama State Port Authority.

TRIP, the national nonprofit organization promotes transportation to relieve traffic congestion, and recently held media conferences throughout the state touting the cost of deficient roads and bridges, along with how increasing congestion and safety is costing Alabama drivers, ranging from \$1,301 in Anniston-Oxford-Gadsden to \$1,846 in Birmingham annually in vehicle operating costs and lost time. The cost for Mobile area drivers is \$1,576. By comparison Gov. Ivey's bill estimates it will cost the average Alabama driver \$55 a year.

"Alabama's methods of paying for transportation infrastructure have lost and continue to lose purchasing power due to inflation, increasing fuel efficiency and fleet changes, erasing the effects of the 1992 gas tax increase," according to the 2019 *Addressing Alabama's Transportation Infrastructure: Roads and Bridges* policy report published by the Alabama Transportation Policy Research Center at The University of Alabama. The report includes two graphs depicting the state's current 18-cent gas tax purchasing power has decreased to 11 cents, equating that to a \$8.4 billion loss due to inflation.

“Increasing fuel efficiency is reducing gasoline consumption and the resulting revenue even as vehicle miles of travel and population increase,” states the report.

The Chamber’s Board of Directors Chairman Daniel Dennis with Roberts Brothers, said, “The cost of doing nothing is too great not only for our future economic development efforts but for the time and safety of our citizens.”

“It is incredibly important that we come together as a business community to support this bill,” said Sisson. “As companies look to locate and expand here, they are carefully analyzing our infrastructure capabilities. The better our roads, bridges and traffic patterns are, the faster Mobile will rise on their short list of viable locations.”

Ivey’s proposed legislation would increase the per gallon gas tax by 10 cents, starting with six cents in October 2019, and then an additional two cents in 2020 and the final two cents in 2021.

Sisson added this increase would more closely align Alabama with policies of its neighboring states.

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About the Mobile Area Chamber

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce is a private business organization with 1,900 members that employ 105,000 people, and the economic developer of record for the City of Mobile and Mobile County. We represent business interests of the Mobile region, advocating for business-friendly legislative policies and serve as a resource for small businesses and area entrepreneurs. Additional information is on the Chamber’s website at www.mobilechamber.com, Facebook @MobileChamber, Twitter and YouTube at @MobileChamber, Instagram @ Mobile_Area_Chamber and LinkedIn @Mobile Area Chamber.



birminghambusinessalliance
THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY



Montgomery
Chamber
BUILD ON



HUNTSVILLE
MADISON COUNTY
CHAMBER

Chamber of Commerce



Association of Alabama

Dear Senator:

We write to you today to oppose SB 119, which would repeal the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. Our organizations would encourage you to reject any legislative proposal that harms Alabama's standards or usurps the authority of the Alabama State Board of Education.

The voices of business and industry for the State of Alabama have united in support of rigorous education standards that will ensure that our students are college and career ready when they graduate from high school. The Alabama standards are the cornerstone of the state's Plan 2020 to increase graduation rates, reduce college remediation and raise student achievement.

We believe that education standards that allow students to move from state to state, or region to region without fear of falling behind or repeating material are critical to our economy and our workforce. Organizations representing education, business and the military have also expressed their support. These include the Department of Defense Education Activity, the Military Child Education Coalition and the National Parent Teacher Association.

Repealing these standards would damage our schools, our teachers and our students that are already well into implementation of our standards, and it would certainly damage our economic development efforts in attracting companies who value an educated workforce. Our children need to be among the best educated in the world to compete for admission into the best colleges and to secure good-paying jobs. The elimination or dumbing down of standards is a disservice to them.

We feel strongly that this is a matter best left to the Alabama State Board of Education, a body created and empowered by Alabama's constitution to handle these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue impacting Alabama and for any support you will provide to eliminating this threat to Alabama's standards.



Memorandum of Understanding

Between parties:

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC)

P.O. Box 2187
Mobile, AL 36652

and

Aéro Montréal

380 Saint-Antoine Street West, Suite 8000
Montréal, Québec, Canada, H2Y 3X7

WHEREAS:

- MACC, the economic development entity for both the city of Mobile and Mobile County, is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote and grow the aerospace industry in Alabama, and continue to make this sector a leading economic driver in our state;
- AÉRO MONTRÉAL, the aerospace cluster of Québec, is an industry-led non-profit organization that brings together the entire aerospace sector of Québec, Canada (industry, associations, unions, educational and research institutions) around shared objectives;
- Both organizations have similar objectives for their members and share a strong belief in business and supply chain expansion potential when actively matching members of both organizations.

THE PARTIES THEREFORE DECLARE THEIR INTENT TO COLLABORATE ON ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES AS FOLLOWS:

- to exchange information about offers or needs of their cluster members;
- to exchange information about training, conferences and seminars;
- to invite each other to appropriate events;
- to exchange information about possibilities of taking part in international events (such as the Paris and Farnborough Air Shows);
- to define possibilities of research projects for members of both clusters;
- to organize jointly, economic missions or broker meetings for the members of both clusters, as resources permit;
- to exchange information on supplier development initiatives;
- to exchange information in the field of qualification and training of aerospace personnel;
- to support reciprocally each other's projects in any reasonable and appropriate manner;



- to publicize this MOU as appropriate in publications and on websites of respective Parties;
- to promote institutional exchanges of colleges and universities by facilitating the invitation of faculty and staff of the partner educational institutions to participate in a variety of teaching and/or research activities and professional development related to aerospace.

The MOU does not obligate or commit funds between Parties. Separate agreements will delineate roles and responsibilities of each party in accomplishing specific tasks in that separate agreement. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as giving rise to a relationship among or between the Parties.

It is understood that the Parties shall be responsible for their own costs as incurred in operating under this MOU. It is further agreed that the signature of this MOU does not preclude either of the Parties from signing a similar document with any other party or parties or further obligates either of the Parties to sign any other agreement with each other.

Any information provided by each of the Parties hereunder is non-confidential and open to the public. In the event Parties need to share confidential information, they will agree on a separate non-disclosure agreement.

This MOU can be amended with attachments describing the agreed joint projects by the Parties.

Aéro Montréal

MACC

Suzanne M. Benoît

William B. Sisson President
President and CEO

Date

Date

METZGER’S, INC. 100TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS: In 1919, Metzger’s Inc. opened its first store in downtown Mobile; and

WHEREAS: The store moved from its original location to the Bel Air Mall in the 1960’s and finally to its current location on Dauphin Street; and

WHEREAS: Metzger’s offers a wide collection of clothing selections for both men and women; and

WHEREAS: Metzger’s formula for success is simple: quality, integrity and customer service; and

WHEREAS: Metzger’s is a local store with local people taking care of local customers with the money going back into the local economy; and

WHEREAS: Metzger’s, Inc. was the Chamber’s Small Business of the Month in December, 2014;

WHEREAS: Metzger’s Inc. has been a member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce since opening its doors in 1919; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes and congratulates Metzger’s Inc. on 100 years of successful operation and support of Mobile’s economy and community.

Done this 24th day of October, 2019.

Daniel Dennis IV, Chair of the Board

William B. Sisson, President and CEO



POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ANNEXATION EFFORTS CITY OF MOBILE

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce has long-supported the growth of the City of Mobile through annexation. The Mobile City Council is being asked to give citizens in three unincorporated areas in Mobile County the opportunity to vote to be annexed into the city of Mobile. The Mobile Area Chamber believes this to be beneficial to all concerned, and urges the Mobile City Council give citizens a voice on annexation.

The City of Mobile has been providing fire and police protection to citizens living within a three-mile police jurisdiction around the city. If these areas are annexed into the city of Mobile, citizens within the proposed areas would begin paying for police and fire protection, lessening the current tax burden provided by citizens of Mobile.

The Mobile Area Chamber advocates for strong coordination between the city of Mobile and Mobile County to ensure a smooth transition of police and fire protection in the affected areas within the three-mile police jurisdiction.

Also, the proposed annexation will increase Mobile's population from 192,000 to just over 205,000, making Mobile Alabama's second largest city. A larger population before the 2020 U.S. Census count enables Mobile to be eligible for additional federal grants addressing critical needs, such as public safety, youth initiatives, housing and transportation. It is impossible to underestimate the importance of this opportunity to the future economic growth and well-being of the city of Mobile and its citizens.

The Mobile Area Chamber strongly encourages the Mobile City Council to call for a vote that will allow impacted citizens to join the city of Mobile. Calling for an annexation vote by the Mobile City Council would be consistent with the five previous calls for a vote over the last 27 years.

Daniel Dennis IV
Chair of the Board

William B. Sisson
President and CEO

Dated: November 14, 2019



Mobile Area Chamber Encourages a YES Vote to Amendment One

Today, the Mobile Area Chamber announced it is in support of a YES vote to Amendment One, appearing on ballots in Tuesday's primary election.

A YES vote will both change the name of the Alabama State Board of Education, and move from elected members to appointed ones. The Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education would be established, and its members would be elected by Alabama's Governor, and approved by the Alabama State Senate.

"We believe Amendment One would create a board that can better address progress in Alabama schools for a better educated and prepared workforce," said Bill Sisson, president and CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber.

Currently Alabama is only one of six states, and the District of Columbia where state school board members are elected and not appointed.

March 2, 2020



May 5, 2020

Mobile County Legislative Delegation
104 South Lawrence Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Dear Members of the Mobile County Legislative Delegation:

As all of us continue to adjust to life in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that businesses begin to reopen their doors and continue providing their services to our community. This crisis has drastically changed how businesses operate and has had devastating impacts on communities across our state.

As businesses begin to responsibly reopen, they must do so without the threat of unwarranted lawsuits associated with the virus. **We are asking you to support SB330 to provide businesses and healthcare providers with protection against civil liability resulting from the contraction of the coronavirus.**

In a survey of our members late last month, liability issues were a top concern of businesses as they looked to reopen. Specifically, more than 60 percent of Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce members wanted the state to provide civil liability protection related to the virus when they open.

Business in all industries are facing major financial damages from this pandemic, and businesses, especially small businesses, cannot afford to be exposed to additional financial injury from lawsuits and circumstances outside of their control.

Thank you for lending your support and voice to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

William B. Sisson
President and CEO

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STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to being an inclusive organization. We strive to have an environment within our organization that fosters and encourages diversity, reflective of the makeup of our community. We believe diversity of thought enriches discussion, results in better judgment, and enhances the growth and development of our organization, and our community as well.

To accomplish this, the Mobile Area Chamber commits to:

1. Annually review the makeup of our Board of Directors with a special emphasis on diversity.
2. Encourage diversity on our committees and task forces.
3. Recruit and nurture new leadership roles for our organization from among women and minorities.
4. Work to attract more diversity in our membership.
5. Ensure diversity is reflected in the makeup of our staff.
6. Provide in-service training for staff on valuing diversity and sensitivity in the workplace.
7. Ensure our purchasing procedures are open and available to all members.
8. Encourage staff participation in minority affairs, events and activities.
9. Support our members, customers and suppliers in their efforts to encourage diversity within their companies or organizations.

Adopted 6/25/2020

Unified Development Code
Adopted by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors June 25, 2020

The City of Mobile is currently updating city zoning regulations to a new “Unified Development Code” (UDC). The UDC is presently in a third “draft” version and the City of Mobile is requesting public input.

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has a long-held position to “preserve jobs and economic growth through the removal of barriers that can derail infrastructure projects and the reduction of overly burdensome regulations that create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.”

Given this position, the Chamber is concerned the present UDC version three requires “conditional use” approval for pipelines, fiber optics and all other underground utilities in all zoning districts. The current zoning ordinance allows these in all districts “by right.” Changing to conditional use approval will require neighborhood meetings, planning commission review, and final action by the Mobile City Council. This is a substantial change from the existing ordinance. Such a process would be lengthy, create uncertainty and be a detriment to further investment in Mobile.

Pipelines are an important infrastructure and commonplace, especially in a port city. The Chamber requests the proposed zoning ordinance be revised to conform with the existing zoning ordinance and provide that pipelines, fiber optics and all other underground utilities are permitted in all districts as a “matter of right.”

Version 6/25/20

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF PAUL KLOTZ

WHEREAS: Paul Klotz is known as a veteran, scientist, business development professional and community servant; and

WHEREAS: Paul Klotz's legacy encompasses accomplishments from a 50-year career, the last 14 of which were with Thompson Engineering; and

WHEREAS: Paul graduated from the University of Mississippi with a BA in Biology and Psychology after which he entered the U.S. Air Force as an active duty officer; and

WHEREAS: Paul returned to the university after his service and earned a Master's Degree in Combined Sciences Chemistry and Biology and began his business career as an Environmental Manager for International Paper; and

WHEREAS: Paul worked for BCM Engineers and Malcome Pirnie in Mobile before joining Thompson Engineering as a Business Development Manager in 2006; and

WHEREAS: Paul's commitment to Thompson and the community should be a lasting example of how life is enriched through active participation as a volunteer; and

WHEREAS: Described by his colleagues as a man with the heart of a lion, Paul has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for research to find a cure to ALS, which Paul was diagnosed with in 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Paul Klotz for his 50 years of dedicated service to the Mobile community and wishes him only the best in his retirement years.

Done this 24th day of September 2020.

Terry H. Harbin, Chairman of the Board

William B. Sisson, President and CEO

**THE MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTS A
“YES” VOTE ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 REFERENDUM TO
ADDRESS CRITICAL ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS WITHIN
MOBILE COUNTY. THESE PROJECTS ARE PAID FOR BY A 6.5
MILLS PORTION OF THE AD VALOREM TAXES COLLECTED BY
MOBILE COUNTY.**

**MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION
2020 TRANSPORTATION
PAY-AS-YOU-GO REFERENDUM**

The MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION directed the Mobile County Engineering Department to prepare the following Engineering Report for the proposed 2020 Transportation Pay-As-You-Go Program.

PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION 2020 TRANSPORTATION

PAY-AS-YOU-GO PROGRAM FUNDS	\$58,000,000
STATE FUNDS	\$ 1,350,000
<u>MUNICIPAL FUNDS</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000</u>
TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	\$60,850,000

\$28 million in countywide road and bridge improvement projects have been selected by the Commission, regardless of the district or municipality in which they are located. Also, an additional \$30 million is divided among the three Commission Districts for road and bridge projects within all eleven municipalities and within unincorporated areas of the County.

The Mobile County 2020 Transportation Pay-As-You-Go Program totals \$60.85 million for road and bridge improvements. Funding for the 2020 program will require voter approval in a countywide referendum on November 3, 2020.

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports a “YES” vote on the November 3, 2020 referendum to address critical road and bridge projects within Mobile County. These projects are paid for by a 6.5 mills portion of the ad valorem taxes collected by Mobile County.

**MOBILE AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
100TH BIRTHDAY**

WHEREAS, in 1919, the Boy Scout movement in the United States was spreading rapidly and had spread to Mobile;

WHEREAS, a group of civic-minded men met at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss organizing a Mobile Council;

WHEREAS, in 1919 a devastating fire swept the south side of the city razing forty city blocks. The newly organized Boy Scouts were cited for its outstanding assistance as guards in the stricken area and rendered valuable assistance to the firemen;

WHEREAS, in 2019 9,000 families benefited from Scouting for Food;

WHEREAS, nearly 3,000 youth members were served by the Council in 2019;

WHEREAS, in 2019, 250 girls were in Cub Scouts, Scouts BAS, Venturing, and Exploring in the council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes and congratulates the Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America on 100 years of successful operation and support of Mobile's economy and community.

Done this 19th day of March 2020.

Terry H. Harbin, Chairman of the Board

William B. Sisson, President and CEO

Investment Policy

I. Purpose

The Investment Policy should allow for the accumulation and subsequent investment of funds to allow the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) to: a) sustain basic operations and core member services; b) sustain services during an economic downturn; c) maximize services relative to the investment by members; and d) cover unbudgeted and extraordinary expenditures brought about by unanticipated challenges or opportunities for emergency funding.

The objectives of this Investment Policy have been established in conjunction with a comprehensive review of current and projected financial requirements. The objectives are:

1. Preservation of Capital
2. Growth of Capital
3. To generate income as needed to fund operations.

II. Responsibilities

MACC Executive Committee has the primary responsibility to establish the objectives of this policy and to designate others within the organization to carry out those objectives.

The Finance Committee is designated to act as the investment oversight committee and is responsible for recommending actions to either staff or the Executive Committee, including recommending the optional selection of an outside investment advisor/manager, and the periodic monitoring of performance in respect to the established policy.

The President and CEO and/or the VP of Finance and Operations is responsible for the ongoing management of invested funds including acting as the primary contact with the investment advisor/manager (if used), routine monitoring of the fund performance and periodic reporting to the Finance Committee and Executive Committee.

If chosen, a professional investment advisor(s)/manager(s) shall be used to make specific investment recommendations and assist in managing the fund assets according to the stated objectives. Each investment manager should be a regulated bank, an insurance company, a mutual fund organization, or a registered investment advisor.

III. Investment Guidelines

Funding of Investment Accounts – Each year based on MACC's prior years' performance, funds may be allocated to either the Short Term and/or Long-Term reserve. The placement of the funds will be determined by the President and CEO in conjunction with the Finance Committee and the Investment Advisor (if used).

Short Term Reserve Fund – The objective of the operating cash fund is to provide ready liquid assets to carry on the normal day-to-day operations of MACC. Earnings from the investment of these funds are to be used in normal operations. Investments for operating cash will be cash or cash equivalents that are liquid and immediately accessible by management to meet the daily operating needs of MACC. The Short-Term Reserve Fund will consist of checking accounts and a liquid interest-bearing money market account. Cash should be transferred as needed by management to maintain the average balance.

Disbursement Approval Process – Requests will be initiated by the President and CEO. Requests of less than \$20,000 will be subject to approval by MACC's President & CEO, Board Treasurer, and the Chair of the Board. Requests of \$20,000 or greater must be authorized by a vote of ACCE's Executive Committee.

Long Term Operating Reserve – The objective of the long-term reserve fund is to emphasize total return – that is the aggregate return from capital appreciation and income. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial stability and cash flows to support the mission of MACC. Investment earnings are expected to be re-invested. The fund is not intended to serve as a restricted endowment. The fund may be used, with the appropriate approvals, as indicated in the operating reserve policy.

Investments for the long-term reserves should be diversified with both liquid and other securities to provide a total return while avoiding undue risk concentrations in any single asset class or investment category. The long-term reserve asset allocation ranges for the objective are to be set and reviewed annually by the Finance Committee.

Long-Term Operating Reserve holdings may be in the form of money markets, certificates of deposit, corporate or government bond, mutual funds or ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds).

Additional requirements for the management of the portfolio (excluding those governmental in nature) are:

- Deposits in any one financial institution should not exceed 25% in the total of the cash and investments.
- Fixed amount of operating reserve to be designated annually by the Executive Committee.
- Insured investments should be no less than 50% of the Targeted Minimum Operating Reserve.

Disbursement Approval Process – Requests for withdrawals from the long-term fund will be initiated by the Treasurer and Finance Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. Disbursements would be made for example: long-term capital improvements, merger/acquisitions, strategic investments and recovery from economic crisis, and can be made from both income and principal.

IV. Accountability and Monitoring

A quarterly analysis of investments and earnings will be prepared by the VP of Finance & Operations and presented to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will periodically review the allocations among investment type to ensure they are meeting the needs of MACC and following the guidelines detailed in this investment policy.

If used, an investment manager shall provide performance evaluations to management annually and meet with the Finance Committee, at a time deemed appropriate by staff and the investment manager, to review fund performance and compliance with the policy.

V. Prohibited Transactions

The following are not permitted: short sales, transactions on margin, letter stock, equity investments other than mutual funds or exchanged traded funds (ETFs), private equities, hedge fund investments, unregistered or restricted stock, private placements, venture capital, below investment grade bonds, real estate and non-marketable securities.

COVID Liability Reform Support Letter

February 1, 2021

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The undersigned organizations urge you to include targeted and temporary liability protections as you consider President Biden's COVID relief package. As the Administration strives to reopen schools, protect our nation's health and strengthen our economy, these critical protections will help safeguard educational institutions, healthcare providers, businesses and non-profit organizations from unfair lawsuits.

The COVID-19 virus continues to rage throughout this country, presenting once-in-a-generation public health and economic challenges. Despite these difficulties, the development and distribution of vaccines give new hope for a future free of the crushing social and economic effects of the virus. Unfortunately, for many who remain on the front lines and continue to serve our communities during this pandemic, the threat of unfair litigation continues to loom. In 2020, over \$23 million was spent by plaintiffs' firms on COVID-19-related lawsuit advertisements, a clear indication that an influx of litigation is coming. As employers, educational institutions, and others answer President Biden's very appropriate call for face coverings and other protective steps, they should not have to worry that their actions will invite costly and unnecessary litigation.

The time for federal action implementing liability protections from such litigation is now. We thus urge you to include balanced liability relief provisions similar to last Congress' SAFE TO WORK ACT (S. 4317) in any further COVID-19 relief legislation. We believe that legislation in this space should ensure that unfair lawsuits will not hamper those who work to comply with applicable government guidelines. We also believe these protections should be limited in duration and scope in addition to preserving reasonable recourse for those harmed by truly bad actors.

Ensuring a bright post-pandemic future for our country's healthcare, business, and non-profit communities is a bipartisan objective. In the last round of COVID-19 relief negotiations, we were encouraged to see lawmakers from both sides of the aisle recognize the need for targeted and temporary liability relief. Lawmakers must come together now and ensure that the entities who continue to serve and protect their communities during this pandemic are themselves protected from unfair and harmful lawsuits.

In the wake of prior crises, Congress came together to pass needed liability protections with strong bipartisan support because lawmakers understood the acute threat of lawsuits at moments of maximum economic vulnerability. That threat is present again now. As such, Congress must take strong action now and provide a national baseline of liability protection during this national pandemic to prevent an influx of lawsuits from inhibiting our return to a robust economy and healthy citizenry.

Sincerely,

U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform
 U.S. Chamber of Commerce Academy
 of General Dentistry Adrian Area
 Chamber of Commerce
 AdvaMed - Advanced Medical Technology
 Association
 Aeronautical Repair Station Association
 Aerospace Industries Association
 African American Chamber of Commerce
 Western PA
 Air Conditioning Contractors of America
 (ACCA)
 Airlines for America
 Alabama Restaurant & Hospitality
 Association
 Alameda Chamber of Commerce
 Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce
 Alaska Hotel and Lodging Association
 Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
 Alle Kiski Strong Chamber
 Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce
 Alliance for Automotive Innovation
 American Apparel & Footwear Association
 (AAFA)
 American Association of Post-Acute Care
 Nursing
 American Bakers Association
 American Bankers Association
 American Business Conference
 American Car Rental Association
 American Council for Capital Formation
 American Council of Engineering
 Companies
 American Council on Education
 American Dairy Coalition
 American Dental Association
 American Farm Bureau Federation
 American Foundry Society
 American Gaming Association (AGA)
 American Health Care Association (AHCA)
 & National Center for Assisted Living
 (NCAL)
 American Hotel and Lodging Association
 American Institute of CPAs
 American International Automobile Dealers
 Association
 American Mold Builders Association

American Property Casualty Insurance
 Association
 American Rental Association
 American Seniors Housing Association
 American Society of Travel Advisors
 American Tort Reform Association
 American Waterways Operators
 America's Health Insurance Plans
 America's SBDC
 Angel Fire Chamber of Commerce
 Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce
 Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce
 AR State Chamber/AIA
 Ardmore Chamber of Commerce
 Arizona Chamber of Commerce and
 Industry
 Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association
 Arkansas Hospitality Association
 Asian American Hotel Owners Association
 Associated Builders & Contractors Empire
 State Chapter
 Associated Builders & Contractors of
 Arkansas
 Associated Builders & Contractors South
 Texas Chapter
 Associated Builders & Contractors West
 Tennessee Chapter
 Associated Builders & Contractors, Illinois
 Chapter
 Associated Builders and Contractors
 Associated Builders and Contractors
 Alabama Chapter
 Associated Builders and Contractors Central
 California Chapter
 Associated Builders and Contractors of
 Central Texas
 Associated Builders and Contractors of
 Cumberland Valley
 Associated Builders and Contractors of
 Georgia
 Associated Builders and Contractors of
 Michigan
 Associated Builders and Contractors of
 MN/ND
 Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio
 Valley

Associated Builders and Contractors of
 Oklahoma
 Associated Builders and Contractors of San
 Diego
 Associated Builders and Contractors of
 Virginia
 Associated Builders and Contractors of
 Western PA
 Associated Builders and Contractors
 Southern California Chapter
 Associated Builders and Contractors
 Western Washington
 Associated Builders and Contractors,
 Delaware Chapter
 Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
 New Orleans-Bayou Chapter
 Associated Equipment Distributors
 Associated General Contractors
 Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
 Association of American Universities
 Association of Catholic Colleges and
 Universities
 Association of Independent Colleges and
 Universities of Pennsylvania
 Association of Washington Business
 Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of
 Commerce
 Aurora Chamber of Commerce
 Auto Care Association Automotive
 Recyclers AssociationAzusa
 Chamber of Commerce
 Barrow County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
 Battery Council International
 Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
 Beaver County Chamber of Commerce
 Bellaire Chamber of Commerce
 Bend Chamber of Commerce Beverly
 Hills Chamber of CommerceBillings
 Chamber of Commerce Biocom
 California
 Biotechnology Innovation Organization
 Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Blair County Chamber of Commerce
 Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
 Boise Metro Chamber
 Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce
 Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce

Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin
 (BCAW)
 Box Elder Chamber of Commerce
 Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Bucyrus Chamber of Commerce
 Business Council of Alabama
 Business Roundtable
 Butler County Chamber of Commerce
 Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce
 California Business Roundtable California
 Chamber of Commerce California Hotel &
 Lodging Association CAMBA and
 CAMBA Housing VenturesCambria
 Regional Chamber of CommerceCampbell
 Chamber
 Capital Region Chamber
 Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce
 Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Carmel
 Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Carson City
 Chamber of Commerce Cedar City Area
 Chamber of CommerceCedar Rapids
 Metro Economic Alliance
 Cen-Tex Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Central Chamber
 Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce
 Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
 Chamber of Shipping of America
 Chamber630
 ChamberWest Chamber of Commerce
 Chandler Chamber of Commerce Charlotte
 Regional Business Alliance Chattanooga
 Area Chamber of CommerceChester
 County Chamber of Business &
 Industry
 Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Christian County Chamber of Commerce
 Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
 City of Umatilla Chamber of Commerce
 Civil Justice Association of California
 Coalition of Franchisee Associations
 Cobb Chamber
 Colorado Chamber of Commerce
 Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association
 Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
 Columbus (TX) Chamber of Commerce
 Commerce Lexington

Committee of 100 for Economic
 Development
 Community Associations Institute (CAI)
 Connecticut Lodging Association
 Construction Industry Round Table
 Consumer Bankers Association Corvallis
 Chamber of Commerce
 Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce
 Council for Christian Colleges &
 Universities
 Covington County Chamber of Commerce
 Credit Union National Association
 CrossState Credit Union Association CTIA
 Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
 Davis Chamber of Commerce
 Deadwood Gaming Association
 Delaware Association of Insurance Agents
 & Brokers
 Detroit Regional Chamber
 Dooly County Chamber of Commerce
 Edison Electric Institute
 Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce
 El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors
 Bureau
 El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of
 Commerce
 Eldorado County Chamber of Commerce
 Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and
 Industry
 Encinitas Chamber of Commerce
 Enterprise Chamber of Commerce
 Erie Regional Chamber and Growth
 Partnership
 Exceed Enterprises
 Explore Schuylkill
 Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce
 Family Business Coalition Farmington
 Chamber of Commerce Federation of
 American Hospitals
 Fife Milton Edgewood Chamber of
 Commerce
 Flora, IL Chamber of Commerce
 Florence Area Chamber of Commerce
 Florida Chamber of Commerce Florida
 Justice Reform Institute
 Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association

FMI Food Industry Association
 Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of
 Commerce
 Forum for Community Leaders
 Franchise Business Services
 Fremont Chamber of Commerce
 Frisco Chamber of Commerce
 Gallup McKinley County Chamber of
 Commerce
 Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
 Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
 Gateway Chambers Alliance
 GAWDA
 General Contractors Association of
 Pennsylvania
 Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association
 Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
 Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)
 Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort
 Association
 GLMV Chamber of Commerce
 Global Business Travel Association
 Global Cold Chain Alliance
 GOA Regional Business Association
 GPA Midstream Association
 Grand Rapids Chamber Grapevine
 Chamber of Commerce Greater
 Albuquerque Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Bakersfield Chamber
 Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater East Mountain Chamber (aka
 Edgewood Chamber of Commerce)
 Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Grass Valley Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Hammond Chamber
 Greater Houston Partnership

Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater KC Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Kings County Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Latrobe Laurel Valley Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Louisville Inc., The Metro Chamber
 of Commerce
 Greater New Orleans, Inc. Greater
 Ontario Business Council Greater
 Phoenix Chamber
 Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Reading Chamber Alliance
 Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
 Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
 Greater St. Louis, Inc.
 Greater Tarpon Springs Chamber of
 Commerce
 Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of
 Commerce & Visitor Center
 Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce
 Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
 Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC
 Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce Hayward
 Chamber of Commerce HealthCare Institute
 of New Jersey (HINJ) Healthcare
 Leadership Council
 Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration
 Distributors International
 HEB Chamber of Commerce
 Henderson Chamber of Commerce
 Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
 Hospitality Maine
 Hospitality Minnesota
 Hotel Association of New York City
 Hotel Association of Washington DC
 Idaho Association of Commerce and
 Industry
 Idaho Chamber Alliance
 Idaho Lodging & Restaurant Association

Illinois Chamber of Commerce
 Illinois Civil Justice League
 Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association
 Illinois Restaurant Association Independent
 Electrical Contractors Independent
 Insurance Agents and Brokers
 of America
 Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Indiana Chamber of Commerce
 Indiana Restaurant & Lodging Association
 Information Technology Industry Council
 Insurance Agents & Brokers of Maryland
 Insurance Agents & Brokers of
 Pennsylvania
 International Association of Amusement
 Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
 International Association of Movers (IAM)
 International Association of Plastics
 Distribution
 International Council of Shopping Centers
 International Foodservice Distributors
 Association
 International Housewares Association
 International Sign Association
 International Warehouse Logistics
 Association
 Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry
 Association
 Jackson Chamber of Commerce
 Jackson Hole Chamber Of Commerce
 Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce
 JAX Chamber
 Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce &
 Industry
 Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
 Kauai Chamber of Commerce
 Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
 Keystone Contractors Association
 Klamath County Chamber of Commerce
 Kodiak Chamber of Commerce
 Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce
 Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of
 Commerce
 Lake Township Chamber of Commerce
 Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Lansing
 Regional Chamber of Commerce Leading
 Builders of America Leading Age
 Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce
 Licking County Chamber of Commerce
 Lima/Allen County Chamber Of Commerce
 Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce
 Linton-Stockton Chamber of Commerce
 Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce
 Lodi District Chamber of Commerce Logan
 County Chamber Of Commerce Long
 Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Los
 Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Los
 Angeles County Business Federation
 (BizFed)
 Louisiana Coalition for Common Sense
 Louisiana Hotel & Lodging Association
 Louisiana Lawsuit Abuse Watch
 Loveland Chamber of Commerce
 Lubbock Chamber of Commerce Malibu
 Chamber of Commerce
 Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce
 Manufactured Housing Institute
 Manufacturer & Business Association
 Marana Chamber of Commerce Marshfield
 Area Chamber of Commerce &
 Industry
 Maryland Chamber of Commerce
 Maryland Hotel Lodging Association
 Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce
 Massachusetts Lodging Association Maui
 Chamber of Commerce
 McAllen Chamber of Commerce
 Medical Device Manufacturers Association
 (MDMA)
 Menifee Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Meridian Chamber of Commerce
 Mesa Chamber of Commerce
 Mesquite NV Chamber of Commerce
 Metals Service Center Institute
 Michigan Chamber of Commerce
 Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association
 Minnesota Retailers Association
 Miramar Pembroke Pines Regional Chamber
 of Commerce

Missouri Chamber of Commerce and
 Industry
 Missouri Retailers Association
 Missouri Tire Industry Association
 Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
 Molalla Area Chamber of Commerce
 Monroe Chamber of Commerce
 Montana Lodging & Hospitality Association
 Montebello Chamber of Commerce
 Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
 Nampa Chamber of Commerce
 National Air Carrier Association
 National Apartment Association
 National Association of Chain Drug Stores
 National Association of Electrical
 Distributors
 National Association of Federally-Insured
 Credit Unions
 National Association of Manufacturers
 National Association of Mutual Insurance
 Companies (NAMIC)
 National Association of Professional
 Employer Organizations
 National Association of Professional
 Insurance Agents
 National Association of Security Companies
 National Association of Wholesaler-
 Distributors
 National Business Aviation Association
 National City Chamber of Commerce
 National Club Association
 National Community Pharmacists
 Association
 National Cotton Council
 National Fastener Distributors Association
 National Franchise Association
 National Grocers Association
 National Limousine Association
 National Marine Distributors Association
 National Multifamily Housing Council
 National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
 National Restaurant Association
 National Retail Federation
 National Roofing Contractors Association
 National RV Dealers Association (RVDA)
 National Small Business Association

National Tooling and Machining
 Association
 NC Chamber
 Nebraska Chamber of Commerce &
 Industry
 Nebraska Hotel & Lodging Association
 Nevada Hotel & Lodging Association
 Nevada Resort Association
 New Hampshire Grocers Association
 New Jersey Civil Justice Institute
 New Jersey Hotel & Lodging Association
 New Mexico Chamber of Commerce
 New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of
 Commerce (NORBCC)
 Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
 NFIB
 NJ State Chamber of Commerce
 NMA
 Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of
 Commerce
 Norco Area Chamber of Commerce &
 Visitor Center
 Norman Chamber of Commerce
 North American Die Casting Association
 North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging
 Association
 North Clackamas County Chamber of
 Commerce
 North Country Chamber of Commerce
 North Orange County Chamber
 North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
 North San Diego Business Chamber
 Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
 Northville Chamber of Commerce
 Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant
 Association
 Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
 Ohio Chamber of Commerce
 Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association
 Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association
 Oklahoma Restaurant Association
 Oklahoma Retail Merchants Association
 Orange County Business Council
 Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
 Oregon State Chamber
 Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
 Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce

Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine
 Service Association
 Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
 Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
 PA Aggregates & Concrete Association
 PA Association of Bed & Breakfast Inns
 PA Council of Children, Youth & Family
 Services
 PA Family Support Alliance
 Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce
 Palmdale Chamber of Commerce
 Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of
 Commerce
 Pennsylvania Association of Community
 Bankers
 Pennsylvania Bankers Association
 Pennsylvania Bus Association
 Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
 Industry
 Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice
 Reform
 Pennsylvania Dental Association
 Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
 Pennsylvania Health Care Association
 Pennsylvania Medical Society
 Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging
 Association
 Pennsylvania Ski Areas Association, Inc.
 Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs
 Peoria Chamber of Commerce
 Pet Industry Distributors Association
 Peters Township Chamber of Commerce
 Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI)
 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers
 of America (PhRMA)
 PIA MidAmerica
 Plastics Industry Association
 Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
 Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors--
 National Association
 Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce
 Power and Construction Group
 Precision Machined Products Association
 Precision Metalforming Association
 Prescott Chamber of Commerce
 PRINTING United Alliance

Professional Background Screening
 Association (PBSA)
 Professional Beauty Association Puyallup
 Sumner Chamber of CommerceQueen
 Creek Chamber of Commerce, IncRantoul
 Area Chamber of Commerce Redding
 Chamber of Commerce Regional
 Chamber of Commerce - San
 Gabriel Valley
 Reno + Sparks Chamber of CommerceRetail
 Association of Maine
 Retail Merchants of Hawaii
 Rhode Island Hospitality Association
 Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce
 Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
 Rowan Chamber
 Rowlett Chamber of Commerce
 S Corporation Association
 Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of
 Commerce
 Salt Lake Chamber
 San Benito Chamber of Commerce
 San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
 San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
 San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
 San Mateo Chamber of Commerce
 San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
 San Ramon Chamber of Commerce
 Sanger Chamber of Commerce
 Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
 Commerce
 Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce
 Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Saratoga Chamber of Commerce
 Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
 Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce Seaside
 Chamber of Commerce Securities
 Industry and Financial Markets
 Association
 Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Slavic-American Chamber of Commerce
 Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
 Somerset County PA Chamber of
 Commerce
 South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
 South Carolina Restaurant & Lodging
 Association / Myrtle Beach Hospitality

South Carolina Trucking Association
 South Dakota Retailers Association
 South Florida Hispanic Chamber of
 Commerce
 South Gate Chamber Of Commerce
 South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce
 South Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
 South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
 South Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Southern Chester County Chamber of
 Commerce
 Southwest California Legislative Council
 Southwest Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Specialty Equipment Market Association
 (SEMA)
 Spring River Area Chamber of Commerce
 Springerville-Eagar Chamber of Commerce
 Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
 (Missouri)
 Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
 (Oregon)
 St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce
 St. Louis Area Hotel Association
 Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce
 Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of
 Commerce
 Streetsboro Area Chamber of Commerce
 Summerfield Civic Association
 Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber Of
 Commerce
 Taos County Chamber Of Commerce
 Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Tempe Chamber of Commerce Tennessee
 Hospitality & Tourism
 Association
 Terrell Chamber of Commerce
 Texas Civil Justice League
 Texas Hotel & Lodging Association
 Texas Retailers Association (TRA)
 The Aluminum Association
 The Business Council of New York State,
 Inc.
 The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand
 Fork

The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County
 Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
 The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce
 The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
 The State Chamber of Oklahoma
 The Travel Technology Association
 Tigard Chamber of Commerce
 Tile Roofing Industry Alliance
 Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
 Traverse Connect
 Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Tri-County Chamber Alliance
 Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
 Truck Renting and Leasing Association
 Tulare Chamber of Commerce
 Umatilla Chamber of Commerce
 United Chambers of Commerce
 United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
 USTelecom - The Broadband Association
 Utah Tourism Industry Association
 Vail Valley Partnership
 Valley Industry & Commerce Association
 (VICA)
 Vegas Chamber
 Vermont Chamber of Commerce
 Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce
 Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association
 Washington Hospitality Association
 Washington Retail Association
 Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce
 West Shore Chamber of Commerce
 West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance
 West Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association
 Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce
 Whitefish Chamber of Commerce Wholesale & Specialty Insurance Association (WSIA)
 Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce
 Winnie Area Chamber Of Commerce
 Winona Area Chamber of Commerce
 Wisconsin Association of Mutual Ins. Cos.
 Wisconsin Civil Justice Council
 Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association
 Worldwide ERC®
 WP Chamber of Commerce
 Wyoming Lodging & Restaurant Association
 Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce
 York County Economic Alliance
 Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber
 Yuma



February 26, 2021

The Honorable Kay Ivey Governor
State of Alabama
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey:

The Alabama District Export Council (ADEC) is a volunteer organization drawn from Alabama businesses, governmental agencies, and non-profits. Established in 1973 by the President and the Secretary of Commerce, District Export Councils are mandated to support the export expansion activities of the U.S. Department of Commerce and serve as a link between the business community and U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEAC) across the United States. Our members have in-depth knowledge and experience in international business.

The ADEC and the listed businesses and industry below are writing to express deep reservations regarding the possibility of state and federal funding for new passenger rail service in Mobile County, Ala. The Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA), rail carriers and Alabama businesses have been closely monitoring a multiyear effort by the Southern Rail Commission (SRC) and Amtrak to establish new passenger rail service on the CSX corridor in Mobile County.

CSX's heavily used single track freight corridor serves the public terminals at Alabama's only seaport. Rail freight and containerized cargo shippers from across Alabama utilize CSX's southbound corridors and often cross on to the CSX Gulf Coast corridor to access Alabama's seaport and domestic markets to the east and west of Alabama. Shippers leverage efficiencies and capacity afforded by CSX 10,000 ft. to 15,000 ft. unit trains to access customers and receive necessary materials for manufacturing, mining, retail distribution and agribusiness, to name just a few examples. Currently, all rail sidings in the CSX corridor, including Alabama's coastal corridor, are 10,000 feet or less. Yet, under federal law, freight and container intermodal rail traffic must yield track right of way to passenger rail traffic.

To be clear, CSX would not be the only rail carrier impacted by new passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast. All of Alabama's Class I railroads and several short line railroads carrying merchandise, raw materials and containerized cargoes for Alabama shippers converge at the Port Authority's terminal rail yard and cross the CSX corridor to access the public seaport terminals. With over \$1.3 billion invested to date and another \$715 million in state and federal investment underway at Alabama's only seaport, delays and added congestion on the CSX line equate to customer dissatisfaction, increased costs to shippers and adverse impact on business competitiveness across the state. These kinds of impacts directly correlate to jobs retention and creation initiatives across Alabama.

Over a year ago, when the state and the City of Mobile were asked to contribute tax payer dollars to the Amtrak/SRC project, the Alabama State Port Authority, Governor Kay Ivey and the Mobile City Council urged a freight impact study and infrastructure cost analysis be conducted to identify actual freight and shipper impacts at one of the nation's fastest growth seaports, and more importantly, to identify the necessary improvements and true public costs to establishing passenger rail in this single-track corridor. State and municipal funding was contingent upon the completion of that study. As we understand, the objective of the freight study was to determine how both existing commerce and Amtrak passenger

1800 5th Avenue North, Suite 3300 | Robert S. Vance Federal Building | Birmingham, AL 35202

February 26, 2021

interests could be accommodated without adverse impacts to host railroads and their Alabama-based customers, Alabama's seaport and the state's ever-growing business recruitment, retention, and expansion initiatives.

Amtrak, with the support of the SRC, CSX and Norfolk Southern, embarked upon the above-mentioned study last spring, and the process has been funded in part by federal taxpayer dollars. The parties, with Amtrak leading the way, selected HOR, a nationally recognized firm with railroad expertise and credibility amongst rail carriers and regulators alike, to perform the necessary study work. Despite pandemic induced delays in the process, the study was targeted to be complete in first quarter of 2021.

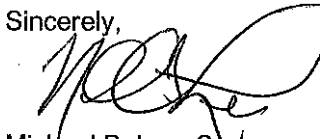
Then, in late January, the Alabama State Port Authority learned that Amtrak had abruptly and unilaterally decided not to continue with the study. Furthermore, it was determined that Amtrak had informed the other parties that it intended to "restore" passenger rail in the Gulf Coast corridor effective January 2022, declaring adequate infrastructure existed to accommodate both freight and passengers.

The ADEC and the listed business interests ask Alabama's Congressional delegation, the State of Alabama, and the City and County of Mobile to send a strong message to Amtrak by withholding public subsidy for this proposed project. We further ask your support in asking Amtrak to live up to its promise of working with the other parties to complete the study work necessary to demonstrate the full impact of passenger rail on Alabama's seaport and the state's diversified commercial interests.

Alabama Export Railroad
Alabama Cattlemen's Association
Alabama Forestry Association
Alabama Railway Association
Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance
Business Council of Alabama
Economic Development Association of Alabama
Manufacture Alabama
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Mobile Steamship Association
Outokumpu USA
Premier Bulk Stevedoring, LLC

Alabama Egg & Poultry Association
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Mining Association
Alabama State Port Authority
Baldwin Transfer Co., Inc.
CSA
Georgia-Pacific Packaging & Cellulose
Millard Maritime Merchants Transfer Co.
Mobile Asphalt, LLC
Nucor Corporation
Page & Jones, Inc.
SSA Gulf, Inc.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Lee, Sr.
Chairman

C: Amit Bose, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Martin J. Oberman, Chair,
Surface Transportation Board
Congressman Jo Bonner (Rel.), Chief of Staff, Office of the Alabama Governor



February 26, 2021

**ADEC Passenger Rail LetterList of Letter
Recipients**

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama

The Honorable Will AinsworthLt.
Governor of Alabama

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate

The Honorable Tommy Tuberville
United States Senate

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerry Carl
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Barry Moore
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Rogers
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mo Brooks
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Gary Palmer
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Reed
President Pro Tempore, Alabama State Senate

The Honorable Greg Albritton
Alabama State Senate

The Honorable Arthur Orr
Alabama State Senate

The Honorable Gerald Allen
Alabama State Senate

The Honorable Mac McCutcheon
Speaker, Alabama House of Representatives

The Honorable Victor Gaston
Speaker Pro Tempore, Alabama House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Clouse Alabama
House of Representatives

The Honorable Bill Poole
Alabama House of Representatives

The Honorable Chris Pringle Alabama
House of Representatives

The Honorable Lynn Greer Alabama
House of Representatives

The Honorable Sandy Stimpson
Mayor, City of Mobile

The Honorable Fred Richardson, Jr.
Councilman, City of Mobile

The Honorable Levon C. Manzie
President, Mobile City Council, City of Mobile

The Honorable Bess Rich
Councilwoman, City of Mobile

The Honorable Gina Gregory
Councilwoman, City of Mobile

The Honorable Joel Daves
Councilman, City of Mobile

The Honorable C.J. Small
Councilman, City of Mobile

The Honorable Merceria Ludgood President,
Mobile County Commission

The Honorable Connie Hudson
Mobile County Commission

The Honorable Randall Dueitt
Mobile County Commission

Copies Distributed to:

Chiefs of Staff for Gov. Ivey, Lt. Gov, Ainsworth, Senator Richard Shelby and Senator Tommy Tuberville. Amit Bose,
Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Martin J. Oberman, Chair, Surface Transportation Board

Paycheck Protection Program Deadline Extension Support Letter

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
& Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
& Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 205210

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairman Cardin and Ranking Member Paul:

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of American small businesses, urge extension of the deadline for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) through December 31, 2021.

Congress created the PPP through passage of the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), and in the past 12 months more than 5 million small businesses received PPP loans. That aid allowed between 1.4 and 3.2 million employees to stay on payroll even when their employers were forced to close their doors. Despite the breadth of this emergency aid, small businesses continue to struggle, especially minority-owned businesses. Survey data show that 66% of minority-owned small businesses fear permanent closure due to the pandemic compared to 57% of non-minority-owned firms.^[1] The same report shows that minorities have a harder time accessing the capital needed to keep their businesses open. More recent data show neighborhoods with a higher concentration of minority-owned businesses are experiencing higher business closure rates (36%) compared to businesses in non-minority communities (22%).^[2]

Legislation enacted last December helped target aid to small businesses that need help the most and the American Rescue Plan passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last week goes even further by providing targeted aid for the restaurant industry and for shuttered venues,

and by directing outreach and assistance to entrepreneurs in communities where minority-owned businesses are struggling.

All these steps, including President Biden's two-week initiative focusing PPP aid towards businesses with fewer than 20 employees, need additional time for them to actually produce the desired result. Extending the PPP deadline through the end of this year will ensure that the segment of small businesses facing the greatest obstacles do not get left behind.

We continue to need your help to ensure that Main Street emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic in a position of strength that bolsters America's recovery. Thank you for considering our views and please do not hesitate to contact any of the signatories if you have questions about the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

National

Academy of General Dentistry

AICC, The Independent Packaging Association

American Coatings Association

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Financial Services Association

American Home Furnishings Alliance

American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA)

American Institute of Architects

American Land Title Association

American Mold Builders Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources

American Society of Association Executives

American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA)

American Subcontractor Association

America's Small Business Development Centers

AMT - The Association for Manufacturing Technology

Argentum

Asian American Hotel Owners Association

Associated Wire Rope Fabricators

Brick Industry Association

Building Owners and Managers Association International

Credit Union National Association

DHI - Door Security & Safety Professionals

Financial Executives International

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association

HUBZone Contractors National Council

Independent Electrical Contractors

Independent Insurance Agents and
Brokers of America

International Association of Plumbing and
Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

International Council of Shopping Centers

International Franchise Association

International Sign Association

ISD - International Sealing Distribution
Association

Metals Service Center Institute

Motor & Equipment Manufacturers
Association

NAMM - National Association of Music
Merchants

National Association for Surface Finishing

National Association of Manufacturers

National Association of Professional
Employer Organizations

National Association of Professional
Insurance Agents

National Association of REALTORS®

National Association of Surety Bond
Producers

National Association of the Remodeling
Industry

National Association of Trailer
Manufacturers

National Automatic Merchandising
Association

National Business League, Inc.

National Club Association

National Community Pharmacists
Association

National Cooperative Business
Association CLUSA International

National Grain and Feed Association

National Independent Automobile
Dealers Association (NIADA)

National LGBT Chamber of
Commerce (NGLCC)

National Mining Association

National Ready Mixed Concrete Association

National Restaurant Association

National Retail Federation

National RV Dealers Association (RVDA)

National Small Business Association

National Tooling and Machining
Association

North American Association of Food
Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)

North American Die Casting Association

Pet Industry Distributors Association

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors--
National Association

Portland Cement Association

Precision Machined Products Association

Precision Metalforming Association

Professional Beauty Association

Security Industry Association

SHDA - Security Hardware Distributors
Association

Slavic-American Chamber of Commerce
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Small Business Majority

Solar Energy Industries Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association
The Association for Hose and Accessories
Distribution
The Electronic Transactions Association
The Institute of Internal Auditors
The Latino Coalition
The National Center for American Indian
Enterprise Development
The Society of Collision Repair Specialists
(SCRS)
Travel Goods Association
Truck Renting and Leasing Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Travel Association
USTelecom Association
Vacation Rental Management Association
Wholesale Florist & Florist Supplier
Association
Wine Institute
Women Veterans Business Coalition
Worldwide ERC®

Alabama

Alabama Tire Dealers Association

Automotive Aftermarket Association
Southeast, Inc.

Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Eufaula Barbour County Chamber of
Commerce
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Opelika Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce

Alaska

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
Kodiak Chamber of Commerce
Seward Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and
Industry
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Glendale Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of
Commerce
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of
Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Cable Communications
Associations
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce

Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

Arkansas State Chamber/Associated
Industries of AR
Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce
Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce
Little Rock Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of
Commerce

California

Alameda Chamber of Commerce
Azusa Chamber of Commerce
Beaumont California Chamber of
Commerce
Brea Chamber
California Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau
CAMEO-California Association for Micro
Enterprise Opportunity
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Carmel Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Claremont Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of California Chambers Orange
County
Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Cupertino Chamber of Commerce
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce

El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of
Commerce
Encinitas Chamber of Commerce
Escondido Chamber of Commerce
Folsom Chamber of Commerce
Fremont Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ontario Business Council
Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
Hayward Chamber of Commerce
Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Monrovia Chamber of Commerce
Montrose Verdugo City Chamber of
Commerce

Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
National City Chamber of Commerce
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
North Orange County Chamber
North San Diego Business Chamber
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of
Commerce
Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce
Placentia Chamber of Commerce
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
Ramona Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of
Commerce
Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
San Rafael Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
Commerce

Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers
of Commerce
South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
The Brawley Chamber of Commerce for
Greater Brawley
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
United Chambers of Commerce of
SanFernando Valley
Valley Industry Commerce Association
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

Colorado

Alamosa County Chamber of
CommerceAurora Chamber of
Commerce
Boulder Chamber
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Glenwood Springs Chamber
ResortAssociation
Golden Chamber of Commerce
Longmont Area Chamber of
CommerceVail Valley Partnership
Westminster Chamber of Commerce

Connecticut

Greater New Haven Chamber of
CommerceMetroHartford Alliance
Midstate Chamber of Commerce

Delaware

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Chamber of Commerce of Cape Coral
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Fort Walton Beach, Florida
Chamber of Commerce
Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce
Greater Winter Haven Chamber of
Commerce
Holly Hill Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
JAX Chamber
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce
North Tampa Bay Chamber
Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce
Sanibel and Captiva Chamber
South Lake Chamber of Commerce
South Tampa Chamber of Commerce

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of
Commerce

Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce
West Orange Chamber of Commerce
West Volusia Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Georgia

Barnesville-Lamar County Chamber of
Commerce
Barrow County Chamber of
CommerceChattooga Chamber of
Commerce Cobb Chamber
Columbia County Chamber of
CommerceCovington/Newton Chamber
DeKalb Chamber of Commerce
Dooly County Chamber of
CommerceDunwoody Perimeter
Chamber Georgia Chamber of
Commerce Gwinnett Chamber of
Commerce Henry County Chamber
of Commerce
Jackson County Area Chamber
ofCommerce
Lavonia Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber
Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber

Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of
CommerceIdaho Chamber Alliance
Jerome Chamber of Commerce
Meridian Chamber of Commerce

Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce

Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Bolingbrook Area Chamber of
CommerceCary-Grove Area Chamber of
Commerce Chamber630

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce
Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce
Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and
Industry

Forest Park Chamber of Commerce
GOA Regional Business Association
Grundy County Chamber of Commerce &
Industry

Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Innovation DuPage
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce &
Industry
Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce
Mokena Chamber of Commerce
Morton Chamber of Commerce and
Economic Development Council
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce
Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce &
Industry

Paris Area Chamber of Commerce &
Tourism

Rantoul Area Chamber of Commerce
RiverBend Growth Association
Rockford Chamber of Commerce
Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Springfield Chamber of
Commerce
Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of
Commerce
Effingham County Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Daviess County Chamber of Commerce
&Visitors Bureau

Indiana Chamber Executives
Association(ICEA)

Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Noblesville Chamber of
CommerceSouth Bend Regional
Chamber Southwest Indiana
Chamber

Iowa

Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce
Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
Boone County Chamber of Commerce
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce

Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce
Monticello Area Chamber of
Commerce, Inc.

Spencer Chamber of Commerce
Waverly Chamber of Commerce/Main
Street

Kansas

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce/Pratt
CVB/Economic Development
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington
Greater Louisville Inc., The Metro Chamber
of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Central Chamber of Commerce
Chamber Southwest Louisiana

Greater Minden Chamber of Commerce
Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
Jefferson Chamber
Monroe Chamber of Commerce
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
One Acadiana

River Region Chamber of Commerce
St. Mary Chamber of Commerce
Tangipahoa Chamber of Commerce

Maine

Retail Association of Maine

Maryland

Central Maryland Chamber of
Commerce
Frederick County (MD) Chamber
of Commerce
Greater Silver Spring Chamber
of Commerce
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Salisbury Area Chamber of
Commerce
Washington County (Maryland) Chamber
of Commerce

Massachusetts

Associated Industries of Massachusetts-
AIM

Blackstone Valley Chamber of
CommerceCape Cod Canal Region Chamber
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
MetroWest Chamber of Commerce
Neponset River Regional Chamber
Newton-Needham Regional Chamber
One South Coast Chamber
Orleans Chamber of Commerce
South Shore Chamber of Commerce
Springfield Regional Chamber
Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce
The United Regional Chamber
of Commerce

Michigan

Adrian Area Chamber of Commerce
Battle Creek Area Chamber of
Commerce
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber
Blue Water Area Chamber
Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce
Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Grand Rapids Chamber
Lansing Regional Chamber
Macomb County Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Michigan West Coast Chamber of
Commerce
Midland Business Alliance
Northville Chamber of Commerce
Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber

Minnesota

Blue Earth Chamber of Commerce
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce
Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce
Grand Rapids Area Chamber
Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
Melrose Area Chamber of Commerce
Minneapolis Regional Chamber
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
National Association of the Remodeling
Industry (NARI) of MN
Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce
& CVB
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Chamber and Visitors Bureau
Waconia Area Chamber of Commerce
& Visitors Bureau
White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce
Wilmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc

Mississippi

Choctaw County Chamber of Commerce
Covington County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Picayune Area Chamber
of Commerce
Hancock County Chamber of Commerce
Hancock County Community
Development Foundation
Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber
of Commerce, Inc.
Partners for Stennis & Michoud
Petal Area Chamber of Commerce
Vicksburg Warren Economic Development
Partnership

Missouri

Bethany Area Chamber of Commerce
Columbia (MO) Chamber of
Commerce
Greater KC Chamber of
Commerce
Greater St. Charles County Chamber
of Commerce
Greater St. Louis, Inc.
Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and
Industry
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Table Rock Lake Chamber of Commerce

Montana

Bigfork Area Chamber of Commerce
Billings Chamber of Commerce

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Seward County Chamber & Development
Partnership
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Nevada

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Laughlin Chamber & Tourism
Commission
Mesquite NV Chamber of
Commerce
Pahrump Valley
Chamber of Commerce
Reno +
Sparks Chamber of Commerce
White Pine Chamber of Commerce
Women's Chamber of Commerce of
Nevada

New Hampshire

Business & Industry Association of
New Hampshire
Lakes Region Chamber of
Commerce

New Jersey

Burlington County Regional Chamber
of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce Southern
New Jersey

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

New Jersey Bankers Association

NJ State Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce

Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce

Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

New York

Advocacy Coalition of Rochester Area Chambers (ACRAC)

Bronx Chamber of Commerce

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Capital Region Chamber

Chemung County Chamber of Commerce

Corning Area Chamber of Commerce

Cortland County Chamber of Commerce

Delaware County Chamber of Commerce

Garden City Chamber

Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce

Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce

Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce

Hilton-Parma-Hamlin Chamber of Commerce

North Country Chamber of Commerce

Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Otsego County Chamber of Commerce

Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina

Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce

Greater Winston Salem, Inc.

Lewisville-Clemmons Chamber of Commerce

Moore County Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina Chamber

Triangle East Chamber of Commerce

Wilmington Chamber

North Dakota

FMWF Chamber of Commerce

Greater North Dakota Chamber

The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks

Williston Area Chamber of Commerce

Ohio

Bucyrus Area Chamber of Commerce

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

Columbus Chamber of Commerce

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

Greater Akron Chamber

Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance

Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce

Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Commerce serving
Middletown, Monroe & Trenton (OH)
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
Vandalia Butler Chamber of Commerce
Willoughby Western Lake County
Chamber of Commerce
Zanesville - Muskingum County,
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Choctaw Area Chamber of Commerce
Claremore Area Chamber of
CommerceCushing Chamber of
Commerce Greater OKC Chamber
Norman Chamber of Commerce
State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

Bend Chamber of Commerce
Eugene Area Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Hermiston Chamber of
CommerceHillsboro Chamber
Oregon Business & Industry

Oregon State Chamber of Commerce
Portland Business Alliance
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Seaside Chamber of Commerce
Sherwood Area Chamber of Commerce
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Stayton Sublimity Chamber and Regional
Visitor Center
West Linn Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Beaver County Chamber of Commerce
Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce
Carlisle Area (PA) Chamber of Commerce
Chester County Chamber of Business &
Industry
East Liberty Quarter Chamber of Commerce
Greater Latrobe Laurel Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Chamber
Manufacturer & Business Association
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
Industry
Pike County Chamber of Commerce
Punxsutawney Area Chamber of Commerce,
Inc.

Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County Chamber
TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island

Central Rhode Island Chamber
of Commerce, Inc.

East Greenwich Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Providence Chamber of
Commerce

South Carolina

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce
Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
Greater Summerville/Dorchester County
Chamber of Commerce
Greenville (SC) Chamber
Hilton Head Island Bluffton chamber
of commerce
Lexington Chamber & Visitors Bureau
McCormick County Chamber of Commerce
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber & CVB

North Myrtle Beach Chamber CVB
Oconee County Chamber of Commerce
Simpsonville Area Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Upstate Chamber Coalition

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce
Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Bristol TN/VA Chamber of Commerce
Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
Kingsport Chamber
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Cotton Council
Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce &
Industry

Texas

Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Alamo Chamber of Commerce
Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce
Big 6 Alliance
Bulverde Spring Branch Area Chamber of
Commerce
Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce
Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce
Central Fort Bend Chamber

El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Flatonina Chamber of Commerce
Fort Bend Chamber
Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce
Frisco Chamber of Commerce
Garland Chamber of Commerce
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Granbury Chamber of Commerce,
Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Grapevine Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston LGBT Chamber
of Commerce
Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber
of Commerce
Greater Magnolia Parkway Chamber
of Commerce
Greater Orange Area Chamber
of Commerce
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Greenville Chamber of Commerce
Hurst Eules Bedford Chamber
of Commerce
Katy Area Chamber
Laredo Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Lufkin / Angelina County Chamber
of Commerce
McAllen Chamber of Commerce
Mesquite Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission

North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Palacios Chamber of Commerce
Plano Chamber of Commerce
Round Rock Chamber of Commerce
Rowlett Chamber of Commerce
Royse City Chamber of commerce
San Benito Chamber of Commerce
Sherman Chamber of Commerce
Terrell Chamber of Commerce
Texas Association of Business
The Chamber (Schertz-Cibolo-Selma Area)
The Longview Chamber
United Corpus Christi Chamber of
Commerce

Utah

ChamberWest Chamber of Commerce
Draper Area Chamber of Commerce
Park City Chamber of Commerce
Point of the Mountain Chamber of
Commerce
Salt Lake Chamber of CommerceSouth
Salt Lake Chamber
South Valley Chamber of Commerce
St. George Area Chamber of Commerce
Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce

Vermont

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Halifax County Chamber of Commerce

Montgomery County Chamber of
Commerce

Washington

Association of Washington Business

Bellingham Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Covington Chamber of Commerce

Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce

Ferndale Chamber of Commerce

Fife Milton Edgewood Chamber
of Commerce

Greater Grays Harbor, Inc.

Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce

Greater Spokane Valley Chamber
of Commerce

Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

Kent Chamber of Commerce

Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce

Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce

North Mason Chamber of Commerce

Puyallup Sumner Chamber of Commerce

Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

South Kitsap Chamber of Commerce

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber

The Tri-City Regional Chamber
of Commerce

Thurston County Chamber of Commerce

Washington Retail Association

West Virginia

Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber
of Commerce

Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce

Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce

Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce

Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of
Commerce

Monroe Chamber of Commerce and
Industry

National Association of the
Remodeling Industry (NARI) of
Madison

New Berlin Chamber of Commerce &
Visitors Bureau

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin Restaurant Association

Wisconsin Manufacturers &
Commerce

Wyoming

Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce

Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce

Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce

CREATIVE ECONOMY LETTER

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership and continued work to protect Americans, stabilize the economy, and ensure the survival of key institutions and sectors during this challenging time. We represent a group of **113 chambers of commerce from 46 states** collectively working with **over 33 million employers, employees, and businesses** of all sizes and industries to respond to our national public health and economic crisis.

The 2020 CARES Act and the new American Rescue Plan Act provided much-needed relief to many of our members, however, there are critical gaps in the aid that fail to meet the needs of the creative economy and cultural infrastructure. A report from the Brookings Institution¹ found that the country's 670,000 creative economy businesses (which generate \$919.7 billion each year towards the GDP)² have collectively lost at least \$150 billion, and that over half of all workers in the creative sector remain unemployed.

Johns Hopkins University and the international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development warn³ that the creative sector is among the most impacted industries in the country—with damaging ripple effects to restaurants, tourism, travel, and local businesses. Bureau of Economic Analysis data shows that the sector contracted by 59% between the end of 2019 and mid-2020—twice the rate of other highly impacted industries—and is rebounding at a slower rate.⁴

We request that the U.S. Congress work swiftly to enact the following provisions within the infrastructure and recovery package known as the American Jobs Plan. These proposals echo the *Put Creative Workers to Work* policy platform endorsed by over 2,300 creative businesses and creative workers in all 50 states.⁵

- Allocate \$14 billion to incentivize local, state, and tribal businesses and governments to put creative workers to work and activate cultural infrastructure, including hiring or tax credits to incentivize businesses and local and state agencies to accelerate hiring, re-hiring, or retention of creative workers; funds to incentivize financial institutions to invest in small creative businesses and creative entrepreneurs; grants to cover restart costs for small creative

¹ Source: Brookings Institution, [Lost Art](#), 2020

² Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), 2020

³ Source: [Johns Hopkins University and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#)

⁴ Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), 2020

⁵ Visit <http://www.creativeworkers.net>

businesses and provide capital for the creation of new creative product to be sold; and support for local and state creative workforce programs.

- Allocate \$3 billion to spark an American cultural renaissance via the NEA, NEH, IMLS, and other federal agencies, including through creative jobs, fellowships, residencies, and commissions designed to drive local economic growth and community cohesion, produce free entertainment to encourage local spending, and incentivize local and state workforce development and infrastructure programs.
- Allocate \$1 billion in arts and creativity-based education for recovery via the Department of

Education, including a bridge program to incentivize retention of arts educators within education infrastructure.

- Direct the Federal Reserve to broaden their nonprofit lending facility under the Main Street Lending Program to specifically benefit mid-size nonprofits to those with more than 500 employees, and a loan forgiveness option.

As we face the road to economic recovery, we must prioritize creative infrastructure and the sector of creative and cultural institutions, particularly because they will help drive the recovery of local small businesses and economies of all types. With key investments and funding, cultural institutions can push the recovery forward across the country.

Sincerely,

Alabama

Mobile Area Chamber, Mobile, AL

Arkansas

Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce, Bentonville, AR

Arizona

Visit Tucson, Tucson, AZ

California

Los Angeles Area Chamber, Los Angeles, CA

Orange County Business Council, Orange County, CA

Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Grove,

CASanta Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa

Monica, CA

Colorado

Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora, CO

Boulder Chamber of Commerce, Boulder,

CO

Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce, Crested Butte, CO

Connecticut

Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce, Bristol,

CTGreater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Norwalk,

CT MetroHartford Alliance, Hartford, CT

Florida

AMPLIFY Clearwater, Clearwater, FL

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Miami,

FLLakeland Chamber of Commerce, Lakeland,

FL

Georgia

Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta, GA

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber, Boise, ID

Illinois

Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Joliet,

IL Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, IL

Oak Park - River Forest Chamber of Commerce, Oak Park, IL

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Springfield,
IL

Indiana

Indy Chamber, Indianapolis, IN

Southwest Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Evansville, IN

Iowa

DuBuque Area Chamber of Commerce, DuBuque,

IA Iowa City Area Business Partnership, Iowa City,

IA

Kansas

Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Salina, KS

Kentucky

Greater Louisville Inc., Louisville, KY

Louisiana

Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Shreveport, LA

Maryland

Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, Gaithersburg, MD

Massachusetts

Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, Cape Cod, MA

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Boston, MA

Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce, Acton, MA

Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce, Littleton, MA

Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce, Springfield,

MA Stoneham Chamber of Commerce, Stoneham, MA

Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, Worcester, MA

Michigan

Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber, Ann Arbor,

MIDetroit Regional Chamber, Detroit, MI

Flint & Genesee Group, Flint, MI

Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Saginaw, MI

Minnesota

Minneapolis Regional Chamber, Minneapolis,
MNSt. Paul Area Chamber, St. Paul, MN

Mississippi

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport, MS

Missouri

Greater St. Louis, Inc., St. Louis, MO

Montana

Billings Chamber of Commerce, Billings, MT

Nebraska

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce, Kearney, NE

Nevada

Carson City Chamber of Commerce, Carson City, NV
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Reno, NV
Urban Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas, NV

New Hampshire

Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, Concord,
NHGreater Manchester Chamber, Manchester, NH

New Jersey

Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey, Voorhees,
NJGreater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, Elizabeth,
NJ
Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce & Convention & Visitors Bureau,
NewBrunswick, NJ
Phillipsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Phillipsburg, NJ
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, Princeton,
NJSomerset County Business Partnership, Bridgewater, NJ
Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce, Long Beach Island Region, NJ

New York

Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, Ithaca,
NYBrooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Brooklyn, NY
Capital Region Chamber, Albany, NY
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Rochester, NY

North Carolina

Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, Boone, NC
Carolina Foothills Chamber of Commerce, Tryon,
NC

Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, Morehead City,
NCGreensboro Chamber of Commerce, Greensboro, NC
Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, Raleigh, NC
The Chamber, Leading Business in Cabarrus, Concord, NC
Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce, Columbia, NC
Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce, Wake Forest,
NC

Ohio

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Cincinnati, OH

Oklahoma

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, Oklahoma City, OK

Oregon

Portland Business Alliance, Portland, OR

Pennsylvania

Allentown Chamber of Commerce, Allentown, PA
Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Bethlehem, PA
East Penn Area Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley,
PAEaston Area Chamber of Commerce, Easton, PA
Emmaus Main Street Partners, Emmaus, PA
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, Erie,
PAGreater Bath Area Chamber of Commerce, Bath,
PA
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley, PA
Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley,
PAGreater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh, PA
Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce, Hellertown,
PA Nazareth Business Council, Nazareth, PA
Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce, Northampton,
PASouthern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley,
PA Western Lehigh Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley,
PA

Rhode Island

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce, Newport, RI
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, Providence,
RI

South Carolina

Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, North Charleston,
SCGreater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Columbia, SC
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Head, SC

Tennessee

Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, Chattanooga, TN

Texas

Greater Houston Partnership, Houston, TX
McAllen Chamber of Commerce, McAllen, TX
Rio Grande Valley Partnership, Weslaco, TX
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, TX

Utah

Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce, Logan, UT

Virginia

Chamber of Commerce, RVA, Richmond, VA
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Tysons, VA
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Mount Vernon, VA

Washington

Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Seattle, WA
Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, Olympia, WA

West Virginia

Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce, Huntington, WV
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Charleston, WV

Wisconsin

Envision Greater Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac, WI
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, Appleton, WI
Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Madison, WI

Wyoming

Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, Cheyenne, WY

LASTEST BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEAL - U. S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

August 5, 2021

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The business community has been advocating for investment and modernization of America's infrastructure for over a decade and now is the time to act. Rebuilding America's infrastructure will create new jobs and spur economic growth, sustain the economy for the long-term, and improve the quality of life for every American.

We applaud the bipartisan group of Senators – led by Senators Portman and Sinema – who worked tirelessly to achieve agreement on this much-needed infrastructure proposal. America's productivity, global competitiveness and quality of life depend on all Members of Congress to make a durable commitment and outline a clear strategy that will invest in and modernize our crumbling roads, bridges, transit, rail, water and energy infrastructure, access to broadband, and more.

Enacting this bipartisan legislation will do just that, and we urge you to work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to see it across the finish line.

Businesses continue to pour their heart and soul into their communities and into the United States as a whole, providing well-paying jobs that spur economic growth and improving the quality of life for those in their community. Now, we need Congress to do their part and provide the investment needed to revitalize America's infrastructure so that businesses can continue to do their jobs efficiently and successfully.

Now is the time for action. We are counting on you to advance meaningful infrastructure legislation to help ensure our economy remains competitive and to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Alabama

Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama
Headland Area Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Selma and Dallas County Chamber of
Commerce and Tourism Information

Alaska

Alaska Chamber
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of
Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Rim Country Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Sedona Chamber of Commerce &
Tourism Bureau
Springerville-Eagar Regional Chamber of
Commerce.
Tempe Chamber of Commerce

AR State Chamber of Commerce/AIA
Little Rock Regional Chamber

California

Armenian American Chamber of
CommerceBay Area Council
California Chamber of Commerce
California Hispanic Chambers of
CommerceCambria Chamber of
Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of
CommerceCompton Chamber
of Commerce Costa Mesa
Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado County Chamber of
CommerceEncinitas Chamber of
Commerce Fallbrook Chamber of
Commerce
Fremont Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ontario Business Council
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce Livermore
Valley (CA) Chamber of CommerceLong Beach
Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Paso
Robles Chamber of Commerce
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
San Mateo Chamber of Commerce
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce

Torrance Area Chamber of
CommerceWhittier Area Chamber
of Commerce Yorba Linda Chamber
of Commerce

Colorado

Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Fort Collins Area Chamber
Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce
Northwest Douglas County Chamber & EDC Vail
Valley Partnership

Connecticut

Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce

Florida

AMPLIFY Clearwater
Cedar Key Area Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Florida
Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce Greater
Fort Lauderdale Chamber of CommerceGreater
Miami Chamber of Commerce
Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce
Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
Holly Hill Chamber of
CommerceJAX Chamber
Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of
CommerceLakeland Chamber of
Commerce
Oviedo-Winter Springs Regional Chamber of
CommerceTampa Bay Chamber
The Islands of Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of
Commerce

Georgia

Chattooga County Chamber of
CommerceCobb Chamber of
Commerce
Dooly County Chamber of
CommerceFayette Chamber of
Commerce Georgia Chamber of
Commerce

Georgia Hispanic Chamber of
CommerceGwinnett Chamber of
Commerce Milledgeville-Baldwin
Chamber
Newnan-Coweta Chamber
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce



April 8, 2022

U.S. Senator Richard C. Shelby
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby,

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber, I am writing to express my strong support for a requested appropriation for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Alabama Aquarium. The Alabama Legislature designated this aquarium the "Official Aquarium of Alabama" during the 2021 legislative session through HB136, which was sponsored by Representative Chip Brown and had the full support of the Mobile-Baldwin Legislative Delegation.

If an appropriation is granted to modernize this facility, the Alabama Aquarium could increase its annual visitor attendance and expand its educational program offerings to yield self-sustaining revenue streams that would allow for future exhibit investment and provide campus-wide educational support.

The Alabama Aquarium is one of the largest attractions for our state's coastal tourists. Modernizing the Alabama Aquarium would do much to strengthen DISL's impact to southwest Alabama's economy and tourism sector.

I respectfully ask that you give every consideration to this appropriation request.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Chappelle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Chappelle
Interim President and CEO
Chief Operating Officer
Mobile Chamber



April 8, 2022

U.S. Rep. Jerry L. Carl
1330 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Carl,

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber, I am writing to express my strong support for a requested appropriation for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Alabama Aquarium. The Alabama Legislature designated this aquarium the "Official Aquarium of Alabama" during the 2021 legislative session through HB136, which was sponsored by Representative Chip Brown and had the full support of the Mobile-Baldwin Legislative Delegation.

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The Alabama Aquarium is one of the largest attractions for our state's coastal tourists. Modernizing the Alabama Aquarium would do much to strengthen DISL's impact to southwest Alabama's economy and tourism sector.

I respectfully ask that you give every consideration to this appropriation request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Chappelle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Chappelle
Interim President and CEO
Chief Operating Officer
Mobile Chamber



April 20, 2022

Mr. John R. Cooper, Transportation Director
Alabama Department of Transportation
1701 I-65 West Service Road North
Mobile, AL 36618

Attention: Matt Ericksen, P.E.

RE: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity Support
SAFE 98 Project

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On behalf the Mobile Chamber and our 1,700 business members, representing 100,000 employees in the Mobile region, I am writing to support the Alabama Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant application through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The SAFE 98 project is an important transportation infrastructure project that will improve mobility, safety, and efficiency along the US-98/SR-158 corridor in Mobile County in southwest Alabama.

Corridor studies identified needs and strategies to improve freight operations and mobility throughout the US-98 corridor, which connects three states. As the south Alabama region experiences tremendous growth, the SAFE 98 project is vital and will provide great benefits for citizens, travelers, and businesses, as well as regional commerce in one of the most congested areas of the state.

As a key stakeholder, and one who's 1,700 members will benefit greatly from the infrastructure improvements, the Mobile Chamber fully supports efforts to help fund and deliver this key infrastructure.

Should you have any questions regarding our endorsement, or if we can support the INFRA Grant application effort in any other way, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your leadership in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Chappelle Jr.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert L. Chappelle Jr.
Interim President and CEO
Chief Operating Officer



May 3, 2022

Mr. John R. Cooper, Transportation Director
Alabama Department of Transportation
1701 I-65 West Service Road North
Mobile, AL 36618

Attention: Matt Ericksen, P.E.

RE: MEGA Grant Application Support
Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

Dear Mr. Cooper,

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber and our 1,700 business members, representing 100,000 employees in the Mobile region, I am writing to support the Alabama Department of Transportation's MEGA Grant application through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project is an important transportation infrastructure project that will improve mobility, safety, security, and efficiency along the I-10 corridor in Mobile and Baldwin Counties in Southwest Alabama.

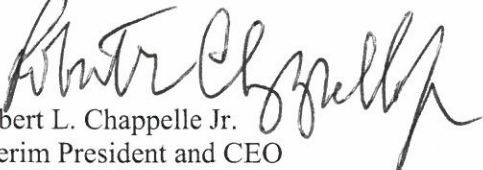
Corridor studies identified needs and strategies to improve freight operations and mobility throughout the I-10 corridor, which connects eight states. The South Alabama region is experiencing tremendous growth – the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project is vital and will provide great benefits for citizens, travelers, and businesses, as well as regional and interstate commerce.

As a key stakeholder, and one whose 1,700 members will benefit greatly from the infrastructure improvements, the Mobile Chamber fully supports efforts to help fund and deliver this key infrastructure.

Should you have any questions regarding our endorsement, or if we can support the MEGA Grant application effort in any other way, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your leadership in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Chappelle Jr.
Interim President and CEO
Chief Operating Officer

June 14, 2022

The Honorable Lauren McFerran
Chair
National Labor Relations Board
1015 Half Street, SE
Washington, DC 20570

Dear Chair McFerran:

The undersigned organizations write to express serious concerns with several issues coming before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB or “the Board”). Specifically, we urge you to reject the legally-flawed arguments that the Board should impose card check organizing via case law and interfere with employer speech rights that are protected under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

In a case called *Cemex*, the General Counsel (GC) has asked the Board to consider overturning long-standing precedent, and ignore Supreme Court decisions and the plain text of the NLRA. With regard to card check, the GC has asked the Board to revive the long-discredited *Joy Silk* doctrine. Under *Joy Silk*, if a union presented an employer with signature cards allegedly indicating interest by 50% +1 of workers in joining a union, the burden of proof would be on the employer to demonstrate why the cards were invalid. Short of satisfying what, in the eyes of the NLRB is likely to be a high bar, the employer would be compelled to recognize the cards and commence collective bargaining.

In two seminal Supreme Court cases, *Gissel Packing* and *Linden Lumber*, the Court rejected the concept of mandatory card check recognition. In fact, in the *Gissel* decision, the Court specifically stated that “secret ballot elections are generally the most satisfactory—indeed the preferred—method of ascertaining whether a union has majority support.” Moreover, Congress has repeatedly rejected efforts to amend the NLRA to impose card check, including the Employee Free Choice Act and the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

With regard to employer speech, in *Cemex* the GC has asked the Board to find that mandatory staff meetings to discuss union issues are “inherently coercive” and to prohibit them. This completely disregards section 8(c) of the NLRA which states that “the expressing of any views, argument, or opinion, or the dissemination thereof, whether in written, printed, graphic, or visual form, shall not constitute or be evidence of an unfair labor practice under any of the provisions of this Act, if such expression contains no threat of reprisal or force or promise of benefit.” Leaving aside potential Constitutional issues, this section of the Act was included in 1947 specifically to protect employer speech rights, and the Board and GC are not at liberty to disregard it.

These issues, should the Board agree with the GC's position, will have a real world impact on our member companies and make it far more difficult for them to manage their businesses. We urge you to reject the legally-flawed arguments put forward by the GC in *Cemex* and to maintain current law.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and Labor
The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
The Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

Signed:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Alabama

Enterprise Chamber of Commerce
Mobile Chamber
Opelika Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Shoals Chamber

Alaska

Haines Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oro Valley Chamber
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce

Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber

Arkansas

Arkansas State Chamber/AIA
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Rogers Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

California

Brea Chamber of Commerce
California Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce
Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce

Tracy Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
West Ventura County Business Alliance

Colorado

Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC

Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce

Delaware

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Florida Chamber of Commerce

Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce

Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce

The Osceola Chamber

Georgia

Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Maui Chamber of Commerce

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber

Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce

Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry

Idaho Chamber Alliance

Illinois

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

GLMV Chamber Of Commerce

Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce

Lombard Chamber of Commerce

Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce

Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Greater Lawrence Chamber

Indiana Chamber of Commerce

South Bend Regional Chamber

Iowa

Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce

Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce

Iowa Association of Business and Industry

Mason City Chamber of Commerce

Kansas

Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington Inc.
Greater Louisville Inc. - The Metro Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry

Maine

Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Greater Niles Chamber
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council

Missouri

Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Montana

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Nevada

Henderson Chamber of Commerce

Vegas Chamber

White Pine Chamber of Commerce/Information Center

New Hampshire

Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

New York

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Capital Region Chamber

North Country Chamber of Commerce

The Business Council of New York State

North Carolina

North Carolina Chamber

North Dakota

Greater North Dakota Chamber

The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks

Ohio

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

Marian Area Chamber of Commerce

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Reynoldsburg Chamber of Commerce

Solon Chamber of Commerce/Western Reserve Safety Council

Union County Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce

The State Chamber of Oklahoma

Oregon

Heppner Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry
Oregon State Chamber of Commerce
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Texas

Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Central Fort Bend Chamber
Greater Magnolia Parkway Chamber of Commerce
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Ingleside Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce
Rowlett Area Chamber & Visitors Center
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Sherman Chamber of Commerce
Texarkana Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Salt Lake Chamber
South Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce

Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Washington

Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia

Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Greater Green Bay Chamber
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce



June 16, 2022

Ms. Emily Marsal
Executive Director
State Health Planning & Development Agency
100 N. Union Street, Suite 870
Montgomery, AL 36104

Re: CON Application by USA Mobile County ASC, LLC for a Multi-Specialty Ambulatory Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Marsal:

I am writing this letter to support USA Mobile County ASC, LLC's certificate of need ("CON") application to develop a multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center ("ASC") in Mobile County, Alabama. This project by an affiliate of the University of South Alabama Health System ("USA Health") will provide increased access and timely care to patients in need of outpatient surgical services. I am strongly in favor of increasing access to the world-class services offered by USA Health and offering a wide range of services on one campus in west Mobile County.

The health care campus site of the proposed ASC includes a freestanding emergency department as well as an independent diagnostic testing facility and a professional office building that is under development. The University of South Alabama is vital to the Mobile County community and surrounding areas. It has a significant economic impact both through its educational programs and through the health care services it offers. The economic impacts in Mobile County of USA Health extend not only to the direct services provided, but also it is attractive to potential employers looking to locate or expand in Mobile County. I am confident that USA Health's development of this ASC in west Mobile County will greatly benefit our local citizens and the Mobile County community, both economically and as a provider of world-class medical care that only an academic medical center can provide.

I have no doubt that USA Mobile County ASC, LLC's proposed multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center will be a significant asset to Mobile County. I fully support the proposed CON application to develop and operate the proposed multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center. I would appreciate your consideration and approval of the CON application and your continued support of the quality healthcare services provided by USA Health for residents of the State of Alabama. It is important as a State and as a vibrant health care community in South Alabama that we continue to strive to provide Alabama residents with better local access to quality health care services.

Best regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Bradley Byrne'. The signature is written over the printed name and title.

Bradley Byrne
President and CEO

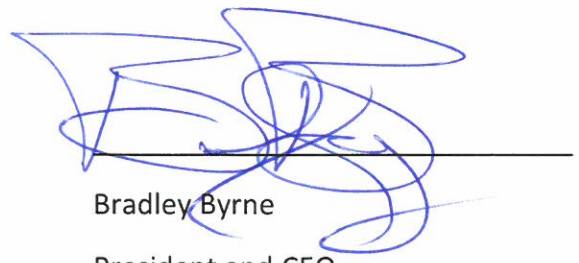
SUPPORT FOR BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE SEARCH FOR A PERMANENT PRESIDENT

- WHEREAS: Bishop State Community College is a state-supported, open-admission, urban community college that consists of four campuses, dedicated to serving the residents of Mobile and Washington counties; and
- WHEREAS: Workforce is the Number One problem facing Chamber members and businesses both here and nationwide, a problem that was exacerbated by the Covid pandemic; and
- WHEREAS: Bishop State Community College is an integral part of the workforce pipeline offering one- and two-year career programs that equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to successfully enter the workforce and thrive; and
- WHEREAS: Bishop State Community College instructors are in touch with labor-market trends and job requirements to ensure their students receive the education they need for success; and
- WHEREAS: Stable and effective leadership at Mobile County's only community college is critical to creating a steady stream of well-prepared workers which is vital to existing businesses and is essential to attracting new ones.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Mobile Chamber expresses its strong support for a permanent president of Bishop State Community College to be named as soon as possible and for long-term stability in the leadership there.

Done this 30th day of June 2022.



Matt White
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Mobile Chamber



Bradley Byrne
President and CEO
Mobile Chamber

July 12, 2022

Mobile MPO Bridge Support

Statement submitted by Bradley Byrne to the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization to include the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project on their 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. (This statement was submitted through an online portal and limited to 1,000 characters).

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber and 1,700 members, representing 100,000 employees, please support the I-10 Mobile River Bridge & Bayway Project. This is an important infrastructure project that will improve mobility, safety, security, and efficiency along the I-10 corridor in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

The current roadways offer the near daily reality of delays, stealing countless hours of work, personal & family time, & it is a black eye for our area in terms of how we are perceived by tourists.

This plan is not perfect but can be modified and further developed, to everyone's benefit, as it progresses. The first critical step is to get it back in the long-range plan and protect the Federal & State funds that are available only for a short window.

As a key stakeholder, whose members will benefit greatly, the Chamber fully supports efforts to help fund & deliver this key infrastructure. For the benefit of all in our region, please vote to place this project back in the plan.

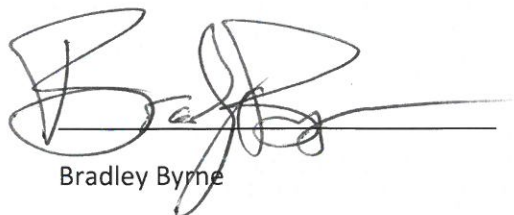
**COMMENDING REPRESENTATIVE VICTOR GASTON FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE
IN THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE**

- WHEREAS: This year marks the end of Representative Victor Gaston's storied career in the Alabama State House. For 40 years, he has been a fixture in the State House working on behalf of Mobile and the state of Alabama; and
- WHEREAS: Representative Gaston was first elected in 1982, and in 2010 his colleagues elected him speaker pro tem, a position he has held since that time. He later served as acting speaker of the House and earned widespread support for restoring faith and stability to his office during a difficult time in state history; and
- WHEREAS: Victor Gaston was a career educator in Mobile County public schools and earned a doctorate in education from Auburn University; and
- WHEREAS: Rep. Gaston sponsored several reform measures for Alabama's higher education system, a bill to double speeding fines in road construction zones, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit that helped transform downtown Mobile and areas across the state, and bills to support the Alabama State Docks; and
- WHEREAS: Rep. Gaston served on the powerful, agenda-setting House Rules Committee and the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee, which is tasked with appropriating roughly \$2.5 billion to non-education state agencies annually, and the Transportation, Utilities, and Infrastructure Committee.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Mobile Chamber congratulates Rep. Victor Gaston on his retirement and commends him for his 40 years of public service and his dedication to improving Mobile and the state of Alabama.

Done this 21st day of July 2022.



Matt White
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Mobile Chamber



Bradley Byrne
President and CEO
Mobile Chamber

Inflation Reduction Act

To the Members of the United States Congress:

The undersigned chambers of commerce and business organizations from across the United States urge you to oppose the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. This legislation includes taxes that would discourage investment and undermine economic growth and price controls that would limit American innovation. Despite the name of the bill, independent analysis confirms that it would have little to no impact on inflation and may in fact increase inflationary pressure in the near-term.

While we understand that various elements of the legislation are being updated, we continue to believe that the following provisions make this legislation unworkable:

- Enacting the proposed Corporate Book Minimum Tax would be the antithesis of sound tax policy and administration. Its introduction would be neither simple nor administrable and would pose a competitive disadvantage to U.S.-headquartered businesses while increasing the incidence of unrelieved double taxation. It would also have a detrimental effect on the quality of financial reporting.
- The excise tax on stock buybacks would only distort the efficient movement of capital to where it can be put to best use and diminish the value of Americans' retirement savings.
- New price controls on pharmaceuticals would significantly reduce private sector investment in new research. Not only would this provision reduce jobs and hurt the economy, but the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office predicts that it will stifle the introduction of 15 new drugs over the next 30 years.

This is the absolute wrong time to increase taxes on American job creators or implement price controls on American innovators. We urge Congress to reject this misguided legislative package.

Sincerely,

National

American Exploration and Production
Council
Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
Brick Industry Association
Decorative Hardwoods Association
Foodservice Equipment Distributors
Association
International Sign Association
Korean American Chamber of Commerce

National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Independent Automobile Dealers
Association
National Lumber & Building Material
Dealers Association
North American Association of Food
Equipment Manufacturers
National Waste & Recycling Association
Slavic-American Chamber of Commerce
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Minority Chamber of Commerce
Water and Wastewater Equipment
Manufacturers Association

Alabama

Business Council of Alabama
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Opelika Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Selma and Dallas County Chamber of
Commerce and Tourism Information

Alaska

Alaska Chamber
Greater Haines Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of
Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of
Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of
Commerce & Visitor Center
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Tempe Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and
Associated Industries of Arkansas
Little Rock Regional Chamber of
Commerce

California

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce
Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce
Brea Chamber of Commerce
Buellton Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of California Chambers Orange
County
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Greater Bakersfield Chamber
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Grass Valley Chamber of
Commerce
La Canada Flintridge Chamber of
Commerce
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
North San Diego Business Chamber
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of
Commerce
Pomona Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
San Ramon Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of
Commerce
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance

Colorado

Colorado Chamber of Commerce

District of Columbia

Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce

Florida

Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce
Englewood Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Chamber of Commerce
North Tampa Bay Chamber
The Osceola Chamber

Georgia

Barrow County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Greene County Chamber of Commerce
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce

Idaho

Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce
Idaho Association of Commerce and
Industry
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Chamber630
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce &
Industry
Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce
Manteno Chamber of Commerce
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Springfield Chamber of
Commerce
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce
Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of
Commerce

Indiana

Greater Lawrence Chamber
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
South Bend Regional Chamber
Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce

Iowa

Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Burlington Partnership
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Mason City Chamber of Commerce

Kansas

Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Greater Louisville Inc. - The Metro
Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Union County (KY) Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Bossier Chamber of Commerce
Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Maryland

Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Frederick County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber
of Commerce
Howard County Chamber

Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Romeo Washington Chamber of
Commerce
Holly Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake Gogebic Area Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber

Minnesota

Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of
Commerce
Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Chamber and Visitors Bureau
St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council

Missouri

Kearney Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and
Industry

Montana

Billings Chamber of Commerce
Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Whitefish Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce &
Industry

New Hampshire

Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce

New Jersey

New Jersey Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

Gallup McKinley County Chamber
Hobbs Chamber of Commerce

New York

The Business Council of New York State,
Inc.

Nevada

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Mesquite Chamber of Commerce
Retail Association of Nevada
Vegas Chamber
White Pine Chamber of
Commerce/Information Center

North Carolina

Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce
NC Chamber

North Dakota

Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of
Commerce
Greater North Dakota Chamber
The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand
Forks

Williston Area Chamber of Commerce

Ohio

Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Marion Area Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Shawnee Hills Area Chamber of Commerce
Union County (OH) Chamber of Commerce
Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber
of Commerce

Oklahoma

Edmond Chamber of Commerce
The State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

North Clackamas County Chamber of
Commerce
Oregon State Chamber

Pennsylvania

Associated Builders and Contractors of
Western PA
Blair County Chamber of Commerce
Chester County Chamber of Business and
Industry
Clarion Area Chamber of Business &
Industry
Greater Chambersburg Chamber of
Commerce
Greater DuBois Chamber of Commerce
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Harrisburg Regional Chamber
Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
Industry
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of
Commerce

South Carolina

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
Greenville Chamber
OneSpartanburg, Inc.
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
Johnson City Chamber of Commerce
Sevierville Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and
Industry

Texas

Central Fort Bend Chamber
Clifton Chamber of Commerce
Deer Park Chamber of Commerce
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce
Desoto Chamber of Commerce
Greater Austin Asian Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Magnolia Parkway Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Portland Chamber of Commerce
Round Rock Chamber
Rowlett Area Chamber & Visitors Center
South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce
Terrell Chamber of Commerce
Texarkana USA Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Texas Association of Business
The Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Davis Chamber of Commerce
Point of the Mountain Chamber of
Commerce
Salt Lake Chamber
South Valley Chamber of Commerce
The Payson Santaquin Area of Chamber of
Commerce

Virginia

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce
Clarksville Lake Country Chamber of
Commerce
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Washington

Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Puyallup Sumner Chamber of Commerce
Shelton-Mason County Chamber
Washington Retail Association

Wisconsin

Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Green Bay Chamber
Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce

Wyoming

Casper Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce

Rail Labor

November 28, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Republican Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

We write you today on a matter of grave urgency. Once again, the United States is facing the threat of a major rail strike between the major freight railroads and 12 labor unions, the second such time in less than three months. A stoppage of rail service for any duration would be extremely damaging to American families and our economy, costing \$2 billion dollars per day.¹ As provided for under federal law and consistent with past practice, Congress must be prepared to intervene before the end of the current “status quo” period on December 9 to ensure continued rail service should railroads and four unions fail to reach a voluntary agreement. A strike by any one union would assuredly result in a stoppage of national rail service.

While the recent decision to have all four unions align the end of their “status quo” to December 9 is good, in reality the decision is hardly helpful. Many businesses and communities rely on regular, uninterrupted rail service. The uncertainty of rail service during this year’s protracted contract negotiations has created enormous anxiety.² In September, the mere possibility of a rail service stoppage created significant disruptions to the timely delivery of critical goods and products. The freight railroads must safely reduce operations and secure their customers’ goods days in advance of a potential strike, meaning businesses and communities saw interruptions in the delivery of fertilizers, chlorine, and other products essential to clean water, our food supply, and electricity generation. Many businesses will see the impacts of a national rail strike well before December 9 – through service disruptions and other impacts potentially as early as December 5.³ The sooner this labor impasse ends, the better for our communities and our national economy.

A potential rail strike only adds to the headwinds facing the U.S. economy. A rail stoppage would immediately lead to supply shortages and higher prices. The cessation of Amtrak and commuter rail services would disrupt up to 7 million travelers a day. Many businesses would

¹ Association of American Railroads, “The Economic Impact of a Railroad Shutdown,” September 2022, <https://www.aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AAR-Rail-Shutdown-Report-September-2022.pdf>

² AP News, “Rail strike worry prompts businesses to seek WH intervention,” by Josh Funk, October 27, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/biden-business-economy-congress-government-and-politics-6b60d53f7b85f301b0a3e7011715b>

³ Association of American Railroads, “Railroad Suspension of Operations” November 2022, <https://www.aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AAR-Railroad-Suspension-of-Operations-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

see their sales disrupted right in the middle of the critical holiday shopping season. Even a short-term rail strike would have enormous impacts. The American agricultural community could see disruptions in transporting 6,300 carloads of food and farm products that are carried by rail daily. It would also halt the delivery of key chemicals necessary to our communities including chlorine, which is necessary for effective water and wastewater treatment operations. In many cases, businesses and communities rely on regular rail service and may not have significant reserves, even in the event of a short-term strike.

No one wins when the railroads stop running. Congress recognized their necessity to interstate commerce and America's economic health with the passage of the Railway Labor Act and past congressional interventions in rail labor disputes when other steps fail. Indeed, Congress has intervened 18 times since 1926 in labor negotiations that threaten interstate commerce and there is no reason why Congress should deviate from this record today. While a voluntary agreement with the four holdout unions is the best outcome, the risks to America's economy and communities simply make a national rail strike unacceptable. Therefore, absent a voluntary agreement, we call on you to take immediate steps to prevent a national rail strike and the certain economic destruction that would follow.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky
Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference of ATA
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
Airforwarders Association
Alameda Chamber & Economic Alliance
Albany Area Chamber
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Alliance of Wisconsin Retailers
Aluminum Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Port Authorities
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Bridal and Prom Industry Association
American Building Materials Alliance (ABMA)
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association, Inc.
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Cotton Producers
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Down and Feather Council

American Exploration & Production Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Frozen Foods Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American International Automobile Dealers Association
American Lighting Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Spice Trade Association
American Trucking Associations
Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce
Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Beverage Association
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arizona Trucking Association
Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/AIA
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Athens Area Chamber of Commerce
Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce
Auto Care Association
Autos Drive America
Beer Institute
Billings Chamber of Commerce
Blount County Chamber of Commerce
Border Trade Alliance
Brea Chamber of Commerce
Brick Industry Association
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce
Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Business Council of Alabama
Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce
California Alfalfa and Forage Association
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association (CBPA)
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce

California Farm Bureau
California Grain and Feed Association
California Retailers Association
California Seed Association
California Trucking Association
California Warehouse Association
Can Manufacturers Institute
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Carolina Feed Industry Association
Carson City Chamber of Commerce
CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of California Chambers Orange County
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
Coastal Agricultural Supply, Inc.
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association
Colorado Motor Carriers Association
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association
Convenience Distribution Association
Corn Refiners Association
Corvallis Chamber of Commerce
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce
Council for Responsible Nutrition
Council of Fashion Designers of America
Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals
Covington Chamber of Commerce
CropLife America
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California
Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Donalsonville Seminole County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority of
Seminole County
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Effingham County Chamber of Commerce
El Paso Hispanic Chamber
Fashion and Accessories Shippers Association

Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association
Flexible Packaging Association
Florida Feed Association, Inc.
Florida Retail Federation
Florida Trucking Association
FMI - The Food Industry Association
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Forest Resources Association
Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Gardner Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Gemini Shippers Association
Georgia Beverage Association
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Motor Trucking Association
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Glass Packaging Institute
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Glendora Chamber of Commerce
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bakersfield Chamber
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Greater Escondido Chamber of Commerce
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Gainesville Chamber
Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce
Greater Magnolia Parkway Chamber of Commerce
Greater North Dakota Chamber
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
Greater Ontario Business Council
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Shreveport Chamber
Greater Spokane Incorporated
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Green Coffee Association, Inc.
Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce
Growth Energy
GWACC Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
Harbor Trucking Association
Hardwood Federation
Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
Health Industry Distributors Association
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
Home Fashion Products Association
Hospitality Minnesota
IAPD - The Performance Plastics Association
Idaho Trucking Association
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Motor Truck Association
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
Institute of Makers of Explosives
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils
Intermodal Association of North America
International Association of Movers
International Bottled Water Association
International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
International Dairy Foods Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Franchise Association
International Fresh Produce Association
International Housewares Association
International Wood Products Association
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Iowa Motor Truck Association
IWLA (International Warehouse Logistics Association)
Jerome Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Motor Carriers Association
Kentucky Grocers and Convenience Store Association
Kentucky Propane Gas Association
Kentucky Retail Federation

Kentucky Trucking Association
Leather and Hide Council of America
Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Chamber of Commerce
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Motor Truck Association
Maryland Retailers Association
Mason City Chamber of Commerce
Meat Import Council of America
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Metals Service Center Institute
Methanol Institute
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Chemistry Council
Michigan Retailers Association
Michigan Trucking Association
Minneapolis Regional Chamber
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Mississippi Economic Council - the State Chamber
Mississippi Retail & Grocers Association
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Missouri Retailers Association
Mobile Chamber
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Retail Association
Montana Trucking Association
Moore County Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Motorcycle Industry Council
Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Association of Flour Distributors (NAFD)

National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Confectioners Association
National Cotton Council
National Cotton Ginners Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Fisheries Institute
National Grain and Feed Association
National Independent Automobile Dealers Association (NIADA)
National Industrial Transportation League
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Sporting Goods Association
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
National Waste & Recycling Association
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
Natural Products Association
NC Chamber
Nebraska Cooperative Council
Nebraska Trucking Association
Nevada Trucking Association
New Hampshire Retail Association
New Jersey Motor Truck Association
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
New Mexico Chamber of Commerce
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association
Nogales-Santa Cruz Chamber Commerce
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
North American Association of Utility Distributors (NAAUD)
North American Home Furnishings Association
North American Meat Institute
North American Millers' Association
North American Renderers Association
North Bay Leadership Council

North Carolina Agribusiness Council, Inc
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
North Country Chamber of Commerce
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Motor Carriers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northwest Horticultural Council
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
Ohio Trucking Association
Orange County Business Council
Oregon Business & Industry
Oregon Trucking Association
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association
Pacific Seed Association
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Payson Santaquin Area Chamber of Commerce
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association (PTNPA)
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association
Pennsylvania Retailers' Association
Peoria Chamber of Commerce
Pet Advocacy Network
Phoenix Feeds and Nutrition
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Point of the Mountain Chamber of Commerce
Portland Cement Association
PRINTING United Alliance
Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Queens Chamber of Commerce
Rail Supply Institute
Railway Supply Institute
Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc
Railway Tie Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association

Renewable Fuels Association
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Renton Chamber of Commerce
Retail Association of Maine
Retail Council of New York State
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Retail Merchants of Hawaii
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc.
Riverton Chamber and Visitor's Center
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
RV Industry Association
Sacramento Metro Chamber
Salt Lake Chamber
San Diego Customs Brokers Association
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
SC Timber Producers Association
SC Trucking Association
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce
Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce
Shippers Coalition
Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
SNAC International
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association
South Carolina Retail Association
South Carolina Trucking Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Soybean Association
South Kitsap Chamber of Commerce
South Salt Lake Chamber
South Valley Chamber of Commerce
Southeastern Grain & Feed Association
Southern California Leadership Council
Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Specialty Equipment Market Association

Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce
St. Charles Regional Chamber
St. George Area Chamber of Commerce
State Chamber of Oklahoma
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
Tennessee Trucking Association
Texarkana USA Regional Chamber of Commerce
Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Association of Business
Texas Business Leadership Council
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Texas Trucking Association
The Fertilizer Institute
The Sulphur Institute
The Toy Association
Thurston County Chamber
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)
Travel Goods Association
Trucking Association of Massachusetts
Trucking Association of New York
Tucson Metro Chamber
Tulsa Regional Chamber
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Durum Growers Association
U.S. Fashion Industry Association
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
United Dairymen of Arizona
USA Minority Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Valve Manufacturers Association
Vegas Chamber
Vermont Retail & Grocers Association
Vinyl Institute
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Wake Forest Area Chamber
Washington Retail Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Washington Trucking Associations
West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance

West Ventura County Business Alliance
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
White Pine Chamber of Commerce
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce
Window & Door Manufacturers Association
Wisconsin Bakers Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC)
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
WV Retailers Association
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the United States Senate
cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives