



2021-2025

**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 2025

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

Advocate

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2021 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 ADVOCATE FOR LEGISLATION THAT GROWS MOBILE AND ALABAMA'S INFLUENCE IN THE REGION, ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND AROUND THE WORLD.

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.



MOBILE CHAMBER

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA *2023*



The Mobile Chamber has served as the Mobile 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 Chamber 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 commercial terminal at the Mobile International Airport.

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.

Support a fiscal year 2024 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.

Support efforts to expand and maintain a comprehensive statewide veterans assistance program to ensure Alabama is the best state for military families and personnel (active and retired) to live and work.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

The Mobile Chamber supports preserving 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.

As a member of the I-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition, the Mobile Chamber supports the collaborative efforts to develop collective responses to shared challenges – such as FEMA response, flood insurance, infrastructure, oil and gas leasing, and coastal protection.

A HEALTHY ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber supports strong effective measures to address the growing opioid and fentanyl crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety, public safety, and overall community health.

Support and encourage the state leadership to pursue the estimated \$2 billion annually in federal funds available to create an Alabama-driven approach for Medicaid expansion which will return Alabama tax dollars to the state. Additionally, the chamber supports innovative approaches to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program that includes the participation of the Alabama healthcare community to ensure access to care, cost control, and limit potential detrimental impacts to the Medicaid program.

Support efforts to expand mental and behavioral health programs to increase access to mental healthcare, increase diagnoses, and reduce suicide rates.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The Mobile Chamber supports 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 the 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 Chamber continues to advocate for the protection of businesses, both large and small, from legislation that would open the door to frivolous lawsuits.

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 federal grants and other sources.

Support all efforts to increase the \$20M annual cap for the Alabama historic tax credit program for certified historic structures. The program is a proven incentive for bringing more investment capital into projects that positively impact job creation and sustained economic activity and is in such demand that it is oversubscribed with waitlisted projects across the state.

Support growth in the film and music industry in the State of Alabama by advocating for raising the 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.

Support reauthorization and extension of the Alabama Jobs Act (expiring 7/31/2023) and the Growing Alabama Tax Credit (expiring 7/31/2023) which have proved to be economic drivers in the State of Alabama.

Support the consolidation of the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System and the Mobile County Water and Sewer system, abolishing their respective Boards, and establishing a new board for sustained economic development success.

Support a state-vote on gaming which includes but is not limited to an education lottery, sportsbook, casino-style games at designated locations, a regulatory body, and a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Support the fiscal year 2023 state supplemental funding request for the redevelopment and modernization of the Alabama Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, as a means of increasing tourism and educational opportunities in south Mobile County.

Support and encourage ongoing conversations between the City of Mobile and freight/passenger rail entities to limit trains from obstructing any public street, road, or highway crossing-at-grade within a Class 2 municipality in Mobile County.

TRAINING & ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

The Mobile Chamber continues to identify needs and support demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime, advanced manufacturing, tourism, healthcare, and supply chain.

Work to meet the need for all citizens in our region by advocating for reentry and job skills training programs for those currently in correctional facilities, serving sentences for non-violent crimes. Promote and support apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities in partnership with key industry sector employers and community colleges in southwest Alabama.

Advocate for the investment in essential support services, including public transportation and childcare, the two most significant barriers to employment and training.

Promote and support scholarships and other funding opportunities to prepare existing and prospective students to earn credentials through Bishop State Community College's state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Center, preparing individuals to enter high-demand, high-wage manufacturing occupations.

Promote and support programs offered by Bishop State Community College, including dual enrollment programs for high school students, rapid skill training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials, for-credit certificate, and degree programs, and adult education programs.

Support and promote the integration of STEM curriculum and career exploration for K-12 students at an early age in elementary and middle school.

MADE BY ALABAMA, FOR AMERICA & THE WORLD

The Mobile Chamber supports current and future 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, Expeditionary Fast Transports, and medical ships.

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.

MOBILE CHAMBER



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2024



The Mobile Chamber has served as the Mobile area's leading business advocate for 188 years. Mobile connects Alabama to the world, and the Chamber advocates for legislation that grows Mobile and Alabama's influence in the region, across the country and around the world.

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AT A GLANCE:



Transportation Infrastructure: Prioritizing key roadway projects like the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and securing final funding for Mobile's commercial terminal at the Mobile International Airport to support economic growth and safety.

Education: Advocating for increased funding for education at various levels, from pre-kindergarten to university, aiming for higher student achievement and workforce preparedness.

Healthcare: Addressing the opioid crisis, seeking federal funds for an Alabama-driven approach to close the coverage gap and expanding mental health programs to enhance overall community well-being.

Career Tech and STEM: Promoting STEM education, providing access to higher education for all and investing in modernizing career-tech centers to align with industry standards.

Business Support: Protecting businesses from frivolous lawsuits, advocating for a business-friendly environment and supporting infrastructure projects like the I-10 Mobile River Bridge.

Cultural and Economic Development: Supporting the film and music industry, increased funding for historical tax credits, and encouraging growth in key sectors like aerospace, manufacturing and tourism.

Legal Reforms: Seeking tort law reforms, property acquisition streamlining and advocating for a fair civil justice system.

Workforce Development: Supporting demand-driven workforce training, reentry programs for non-violent offenders and advocating for essential support services like public transportation and childcare.

Natural Resources: Advocating for federal payments to support coastal restoration and infrastructure to mitigate damage from future storms.

International Competitiveness: Supporting military contracts, free and fair trade policies, and reducing trade barriers to benefit local families, businesses and workers.

Feel free to reach out to our Government Affairs team at the Mobile Chamber.



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Dear Mobile Chamber Member,

Challenges and opportunities have been the defining features of Mobile's post-pandemic economy. Fortunately, state policymakers have been proactive in helping employers overcome these challenges and capitalize on opportunities, but there is more work to be done.

The Mobile Chamber's 2024 Legislative Agenda offers a policy roadmap for how we build on this momentum. The Chamber's priorities were determined by business leaders across the region through meetings, surveys and research and were vetted and approved by our Government Affairs Committee and Board of Directors. They serve as the agenda for the governmental affairs team as we advocate on behalf of our membership.

As the voice of Mobile's business community in Montgomery, the Chamber looks forward to another successful session in support of employers and job creators.

Sincerely,



Bradley Byrne
*President and CEO
Mobile Chamber*



Melissa Cross
*Chamber Board Chairman
President and Owner
McAleer's Office Furniture*

Your Involvement Matters!

The Mobile Chamber coordinates government affairs efforts on behalf of its members and the Mobile business community. The Chamber's member-driven government affairs program includes establishing positions on issues that impact our members and the economic advancement of the region, educating elected officials about these issues and encouraging membership involvement in the Chamber's advocacy efforts.

The Chamber's non-partisan Government Affairs Committee is comprised of members from diverse industries. This committee is responsible for helping to guide the Chamber's advocacy efforts by reviewing pending legislation and regulations for their impact on the membership, developing positions that will enhance economic growth and developing programs that inform and encourage members to participate in the Chamber's government affairs initiatives.

KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Mobile Chamber continues to advocate for the protection of businesses, both large and small, from legislation that would open the door to frivolous lawsuits.

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 federal grants and other sources.

Support all efforts to increase the \$20 million annual cap and return the qualifying age from 75 years to 60 years for certified historic structures. For the Alabama historic tax credit program, the program is a proven incentive for bringing more investment capital into projects that positively impact job creation and sustained economic activity and is in such demand that it is waitlisted with projects across the state.

Support growth in the film and music industry in the State of Alabama by advocating for raising the 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.

The Mobile Chamber supports a statewide-vote on gaming, which includes, but is not limited to an education lottery; sportsbook, casino-style games at designated locations; a regulatory body; and a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Support a fiscal year 2024 state supplemental funding request for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to fund the construction of a new dormitory designed to 1) house in-residence graduate students displaced from on-campus housing by Hurricane Sally, 2) increase housing for summer-term undergraduates that would allow for the increased diversification of academic programs, and 3) support course requirements of new bachelor marine science degrees at the University of South Alabama and University of Alabama via a new spring term.

The Mobile Chamber supports and encourages ongoing conversations between the City of Mobile and freight/passenger rail entities to limit trains from obstructing any public street, road or highway crossing-at-grade within a Class 2 municipality in Mobile County.

The Mobile Chamber supports reforms of Alabama's tort laws and other civil justice reforms in order to strike an appropriate balance between protecting consumer and business interests, building a stronger business climate, and creating a fairer civil justice system for all.

The Mobile Chamber supports a reduced redemption period allowing local governments or land banks to acquire tax delinquent properties not purchased at auction, streamlining the process for community development initiatives.

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, tourism, healthcare and supply chain.

Work to meet the need for all citizens in our region by advocating for reentry and job skills training programs for those currently in correctional facilities serving sentences for non-violent crimes. Promote and support apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities in partnership with key industry sector employers and community colleges in southwest Alabama.

Advocate for the investment in essential support services, including public transportation and childcare, the two most significant barriers to employment and training.

Promote and support scholarships and other funding opportunities to prepare existing and prospective students to earn credentials through Bishop State Community College's state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Center, preparing individuals to enter high-demand, high-wage manufacturing occupations.

Promote and support programs offered by Bishop State Community College, including increased funding for dual enrollment programs for high school students, rapid skill training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials, for-credit certificates, degree programs and adult education programs.

Support and promote the integration of STEM curriculum and career exploration for K-12 students at an early age in elementary and middle school, and aviation training programs such as FlightPath9, Bishop State's aviation manufacturing partnership with Airbus.

Mobile Chamber supports additional access to public higher education for individuals without a social security number in Alabama to cultivate a diverse and skilled workforce and create an opportunity for all aspiring learners.

The Mobile Chamber supports additional funding to renovate and modernize Mobile County's high school career-tech centers, which is imperative to ensuring that students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, fostering a conducive learning environment in line with industry standards, better equipping students with the practical skills needed to excel in a rapidly changing job market and contributing to the long-term economic development of this region.

Support the fiscal year 2025 state budget appropriation for the Alabama School of Math and Science to enhance the facilities, equipment, and educational offerings at the state's only 100-percent public and 100-percent residential school that is exceeding state averages – including a 100-percent graduation rate, an average ACT score of 30 – with 75 percent of its graduates attending college in the state and 65 percent working in state.



MADE IN MOBILE, FOR AMERICA & THE WORLD

Support current and future 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, Expeditionary Fast Transports, and medical ships.

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.

A HEALTHY ALABAMA

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

Support and encourage the state leadership to pursue the estimated \$2 billion annually in federal funds available to create an Alabama-driven approach to close the coverage gap which will return Alabama tax dollars to the state. Additionally, the Chamber supports innovative approaches to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program that includes the participation of the Alabama healthcare community to ensure access to care, cost control, and limit potential detrimental impacts to the Medicaid program.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to expand mental and behavioral health programs to increase access to mental healthcare, increase diagnoses and reduce suicide rates.

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 the 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.



FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber 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 will always be a gap between state resources and infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to the development of new projects. The Chamber believes it is critical to invest state resources in roadways that spur economic growth and increase public safety, namely the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project, the US 90/98 Causeway, U.S. HWY 45, the West Alabama Corridor (HWY 43), State Route 158 from Mobile to the Mississippi line, improvements to I-65 and I-10, and Baldwin County Beach Express Extension.

Work in support of the Mobile Airport Authority's efforts to secure final funding of Mobile's commercial terminal at the Mobile International Airport.

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.

Support a fiscal year 2025 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.

Support state investment of one-time and ongoing education funding to enhance the facilities and equipment at all four campuses of Bishop State Community College, focused around improving student support services and workforce development training opportunities to meet regional occupational demand.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to expand and maintain a comprehensive statewide veterans assistance program to ensure Alabama is the best state for military families and personnel (active and retired) to live and work.

The Mobile Chamber continues to support an industrial or research enterprise's right to appeal the fair market valuation of its property and equipment while continuing to consider obsolescence as part of its fair market value calculation.

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.

As a member of the I-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition, the Mobile Chamber supports the collaborative efforts to develop collective responses to shared challenges – such as FEMA response, flood insurance, infrastructure, oil and gas leasing, and coastal protection.

The Mobile Chamber supports extending the notification period for insurance policy cancellations, aiming to provide individuals and businesses with increased time to prepare for any potential changes or to seek alternative coverage. This adjustment would offer more stability and assistance to policyholders in navigating insurance transitions.



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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025



The Mobile Chamber has served as the Mobile area's leading business advocate for 189 years. Mobile connects Alabama to the world, and the Chamber advocates for legislation that grows Mobile and Alabama's influence in the region, across the country and around the world.

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA KEY PRIORITIES:

Bridging Education and Industry: Transforming Workforce Development in Alabama

Expansion of the TEAMS Act to CTE Teachers aims to extend the benefits of the TEAMS Act to include Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators. This expansion specifically targets CTE teachers who specialize in key sectors and enablers identified under the Catalysts framework, such as chemical manufacturing, forestry and wood products, agriculture and food production, biosciences, technology, defense, mobility, metal and advanced materials, logistics and distribution, and business services. Historically, these teaching positions are some of the most challenging to staff because skilled professionals in these fields can earn significantly more working in their respective industries than on an entry-level teacher salary. By offering competitive compensation and benefits to CTE educators under the TEAMS Act, the state can attract professionals with the technical expertise necessary to align education with workforce development goals to prepare students for high-demand careers, strengthen critical industries and secure Alabama's competitiveness in a rapidly evolving economy.

The proposed **joint-venue Career Technical Education (CTE) campus**, a collaboration among Bishop State Community College, Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS), and the Mobile Area Education Foundation (MAEF), represents a transformative investment in workforce development. As a new charter school focused on the maritime and advanced manufacturing industries for grades 6-12, this state-of-the-art facility will provide students with hands-on training and industry-aligned curricula to equip them with critical skills for high-demand, high-wage careers. The Mobile Chamber supports a \$30 million investment for a regional advanced manufacturing and maritime training academy to create cutting-edge learning environments, purchase industry-grade equipment, and develop programs aligned with regional economic needs to ensure a robust pipeline of skilled talent to meet the challenges of the current and future workforce.

Expanding Access to Workforce Housing: A Critical Investment in Communities

Definition Changing AMI Percentage seeks to broaden the definition of "low or moderate income person or family" to include individuals or families earning up to 140% of the area's average median income (AMI), an increase from the current threshold of 100%. This adjustment addresses the pressing need for workforce housing by capturing those who are essential to the local economy but are often excluded from existing housing programs. Teachers, first responders and healthcare workers, for example, frequently struggle with housing affordability due to rising market rates, despite their critical contributions to the community. By redefining eligibility, counties and municipalities will gain greater flexibility to address housing challenges and support a more inclusive approach to workforce housing.

Complementing this effort, the **Workforce Housing Tax Credit pilot program** incentivizes private sector investment in workforce housing projects. Modeled after the successful Growing Alabama Tax Credit, this initiative encourages businesses and individuals to invest in housing development through state tax credits. The program prioritizes areas with acute housing shortages, particularly for workers in essential sectors like education, healthcare, manufacturing and public safety. By streamlining partnerships between local governments and private developers, this bill aims to accelerate the availability of affordable housing, strengthen local economies and ensure communities have the infrastructure necessary to support their workforce. Together, these bills represent a strategic and innovative approach to making housing more accessible, sustainable and aligned with the needs of those who drive our economy forward.

To learn about these
key priorities and
more, scan here.



Feel free to reach out to our Government Affairs team at the Mobile Chamber.



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KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Mobile Chamber continues to advocate for the protection of businesses, both large and small, from legislation that would open the door to frivolous lawsuits.

The Mobile Chamber advocates 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.

The Mobile Chamber supports 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 federal grants and other sources.

The Mobile Chamber supports all efforts to increase the \$20 million annual cap and return the qualifying age from 75 years to 60 years for certified historic structures. For the Alabama historic tax credit program, the program is a proven incentive for bringing more investment capital into projects that positively impact job creation and sustained economic activity and is in such demand that it is waitlisted with projects across the state.

The Mobile Chamber supports an increase in the film and music industry in the State of Alabama by advocating for raising the incentive cap.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for continued funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program which supports the deepening and widening and the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel; and maintain the necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels.

The Mobile Chamber supports a statewide-vote on gaming, which includes, but is not limited to an education lottery; sportsbook, casino-style games at designated locations; a regulatory body; and a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

The Mobile Chamber supports the fiscal year 2025 state supplemental funding request for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to construct a new dormitory designed to house in-residence graduate students displaced from on-campus housing by Hurricane Sally, increase housing for summer-term undergraduates, allow diversification of academic programs, and support course requirements of marine science degrees. In addition, Dauphin Island Sea Lab also seeks assistance with funding to replace the 70-year-old Discovery Hall Program Classroom building that serves some 10,000 K-12 students, teachers, and chaperones along with remote delivery of educational programs to some 3,500 students across the State of Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber supports and encourages ongoing conversations between the City of Mobile and freight/passenger rail entities to limit trains from obstructing any public street, road or highway crossing-at-grade within a Class 2 municipality in Mobile County.

The Mobile Chamber supports reforms of Alabama's tort laws and other civil justice reforms to strike an appropriate balance between protecting consumer and business interests, building a stronger business climate, and creating a fairer civil justice system for all.

The Mobile Chamber supports a reduced redemption period allowing local governments or land banks to acquire tax-delinquent properties not purchased, streamlining the process for community development initiatives.

The Mobile Chamber supports \$1 million in funding to support the re-establishment and operation of passenger rail service between Mobile and New Orleans, enhancing regional connectivity and economic development.

The Mobile Chamber supports state and federal investment in the Alabama Port Authority for capital improvement projects that foster continued growth at the Port of Mobile and throughout the State of Alabama.

TRAINING & ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

The Mobile Chamber supports expanding the TEAMS Act to include Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers in Alabama's key industries— Mobility, Agricultural Products/Food Production, Chemical Manufacturing, Defense, Forestry and Wood, Bioscience, Healthcare, Technology, and Metal/Advanced Materials. This expansion addresses critical workforce shortages by offering CTE educators salary enhancements and professional development opportunities, aligning their skills with industry demands. By attracting and retaining skilled teachers in these sectors, Alabama can better prepare students for high-demand jobs, supporting economic growth and enhancing the state's overall workforce readiness.

The Mobile Chamber supports a \$30-million investment in the south Alabama workforce by constructing a regional advanced manufacturing and maritime training academy, serving grades 6–12 with dual enrollment, and developed by the Mobile Chamber's Workforce Alliance.

The Mobile Chamber supports demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime, advanced manufacturing, tourism, healthcare and supply chain.

The Mobile Chamber supports working to meet the needs for all citizens in our region by advocating for reentry and job skills training programs for those currently in correctional facilities serving sentences for non-violent crimes. Promote and support apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities in partnership with key industry sector employers and community colleges in southwest Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for the investment in essential support services, including public transportation and childcare, the two most significant barriers to employment and training.

The Mobile Chamber promotes and supports scholarships and other funding opportunities to prepare existing and prospective students to earn credentials through Bishop State Community College's state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Center, preparing individuals to enter high-demand, high-wage manufacturing occupations.

The Mobile Chamber supports increased funding for dual enrollment programs for high school students, rapid skill training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials, for-credit certificates, degree programs and adult education programs.

The Mobile Chamber supports and promotes the integration of STEM curriculum and career exploration for K-12 students, and aviation training programs such as FlightPath9, Bishop State's aviation manufacturing partnership with Airbus, and the Impact Program with AM/NS Calvert.

The Mobile Chamber supports additional access to public higher education for individuals without a social security number in Alabama to cultivate a diverse and skilled workforce and create an opportunity for all aspiring learners.

The Mobile Chamber supports additional funding to renovate and modernize Mobile County's high school career-tech centers, which is imperative to ensuring students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, fostering a conducive learning environment in line with industry standards, better equipping students with the practical skills needed to excel in a rapidly changing job market and contributing to the long-term economic development of this region.

The Mobile Chamber supports the fiscal year 2026 state budget appropriation for the Alabama School of Math and Science to enhance the facilities, equipment and educational offerings at the state's only 100-percent public and 100-percent residential school. The school, which was recently ranked "#1 Best Public High School in Alabama" by Niche, is exceeding state averages—including a 100-percent graduation rate and an average ACT score of 30—with 75 percent of its graduates' attending college in the state and 65 percent working in the state.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation that amends Alabama's Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT) to adjust tax revenue distribution for municipalities impacted by population changes due to annexations, de-annexations, or incorporations.

The Mobile Chamber supports a revision to the SSUT to ensure online purchases of locally sourced goods (i.e. food and groceries) are taxed under local sales tax rates, instead of the standard statewide 8% for online sales.

MADE IN MOBILE, FOR AMERICA & THE WORLD

The Mobile Chamber supports the continued expansion of the maritime industrial base in Mobile. Mobile County has several shipyards that play an important role in building and repairing ships for the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, and commercial customers. This sector is both critical to our national defense and to the continued growth of the Mobile economy.

The Mobile Chamber supports 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 improve the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation defining "mass balance attribution" in solid waste disposal and recyclable materials management, ensuring clarity and accountability in regulatory frameworks for sustainable waste management practices and promoting a more circular economy.

The Mobile Chamber does not support the broad application of tariffs across all industries, as such measures can create unnecessary barriers to trade, hinder economic growth, and increase costs for consumers. However, we do recognize the critical importance of safeguarding national security and protecting strategic industries essential to the country's defense and infrastructure. In these specific cases, the implementation of targeted tariffs may be a necessary tool to preserve domestic capabilities and ensure the long-term security of vital sectors. Our approach emphasizes balance—promoting free and fair trade while addressing genuine national security concerns where appropriate.

A SAFE AND HEALTHY ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber supports strong effective measures to address the growing opioid and fentanyl crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety, public safety and overall community health.

The Mobile Chamber supports and encourages the state leadership to pursue the estimated \$2 billion annually in federal funds available to create an Alabama-driven approach to close the healthcare coverage gap which will return Alabama tax dollars to the state. Additionally, the Chamber supports innovative approaches to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program that includes the participation of the Alabama healthcare community to ensure access to care, cost control, and limit potential detrimental impacts to the Medicaid program.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to expand mental and behavioral health programs to increase access to mental healthcare, increase diagnoses and reduce suicide rates.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation to prohibit the possession of a pistol with parts intended to convert it into an automatic weapon and legislation to prevent drug users and dealers convicted of a felony from owning a firearm, both aligning with existing federal law.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation that increases penalties from a Class B to a Class A felony for individuals found guilty of shooting into occupied vehicles or dwellings.



GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The Mobile Chamber supports 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 the revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for investments in climate-resilient infrastructure like a new I-10 Bridge and Bayway in an effort to mitigate damage from future storms.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation authorizing Class 2 municipalities to enter delegation agreements with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, enabling local enforcement of the Alabama Scrap Tire Environmental Quality Act and granting municipal courts jurisdiction over violations with associated criminal penalties.

The Mobile Chamber actively supports buy-local seafood programs by advocating for policies at both the state and federal levels that promote the Gulf Coast seafood industry. This includes working with government agencies to secure funding, providing platforms for local seafood businesses to connect with larger markets, fostering partnerships between seafood producers and local retailers, and ensuring sustainability and economic growth for the region's seafood industry.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

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The Mobile Chamber, as a member of the I-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition, supports the collaborative efforts to develop collective responses to shared challenges – such as FEMA response, wind and flood insurance, infrastructure, oil and gas leasing, and coastal protection.

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The Mobile Chamber continues to support an industrial or research enterprise's right to appeal the fair market valuation of its property and equipment while continuing to consider obsolescence as part of its fair market value calculation.

The Mobile Chamber supports amending the definition of "low- or moderate-income person or family" to include individuals or families earning up to 140% of the area's average median income (AMI). This adjustment allows municipalities greater flexibility in allocating local funds to support the construction and expansion of workforce housing, addressing the growing demand for affordable housing solutions.

The Mobile Chamber supports creating an additional tax incentive pilot program designed to continue to meet the housing demand of Alabama's workforce. The program would be a state initiative to encourage private investments in workforce housing by offering tax credits to individuals and businesses who contributed to eligible projects. The program incentivizes donations to approved workforce housing projects, granting tax credits equivalent to the amount donated. This setup aims to streamline the acquisition of property, removal of blighted property, and infrastructure improvements, incentivizing developers in Alabama to further develop additional housing demands.





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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 Commerce Queen
 Creek Chamber of Commerce, Inc Rantoul
 Area Chamber of Commerce Redding
 Chamber of Commerce Regional
 Chamber of Commerce - San
 Gabriel Valley
 Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce Retail
 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
The 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

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 Letter List of Letter
Recipients**

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama

The Honorable Will Ainsworth Lt.
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 | American Subcontractor Association |
| AICC, The Independent Packaging Association | America's Small Business Development Centers |
| American Coatings Association | AMT - The Association for Manufacturing Technology |
| American Council of Engineering Companies | Argentum |
| American Financial Services Association | Asian American Hotel Owners Association |
| American Home Furnishings Alliance | Associated Wire Rope Fabricators |
| American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) | Brick Industry Association |
| American Institute of Architects | Building Owners and Managers Association International |
| American Land Title Association | Credit Union National Association |
| American Mold Builders Association | DHI - Door Security & Safety Professionals |
| American Network of Community Options and Resources | Financial Executives International |
| American Society of Association Executives | Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) |
| American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) | |

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 Mirco
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
Commerce
Cape 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
Commerce
Cushing 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
Commerce
Hillsboro 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
Flatonia 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, CA

Santa 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,

CT Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Norwalk,

CT MetroHartford Alliance, Hartford, CT

Florida

AMPLIFY Clearwater, Clearwater, FL

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Miami,

FL Lakeland 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,
ILOak 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,
IAIowa 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,
MAStoneham 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,
PA Easton Area Chamber of Commerce, Easton, PA
Emmaus Main Street Partners, Emmaus, PA
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, Erie,
PA Greater Bath Area Chamber of Commerce, Bath,
PA
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley, PA
Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley,
PA Greater 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,
PA Southern 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,
SC Greater 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, 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
Commerce
Cobb Chamber of
Commerce
Dooly County Chamber of
Commerce
Fayette Chamber of
Commerce
Georgia Chamber of
Commerce

Georgia Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce
Gwinnett 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 that reads "Robert Chappelle".

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.

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 that reads "Robert Chappelle".

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,

A handwritten signature in black 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

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 handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley Byrne', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bradley Byrne
President and CEO

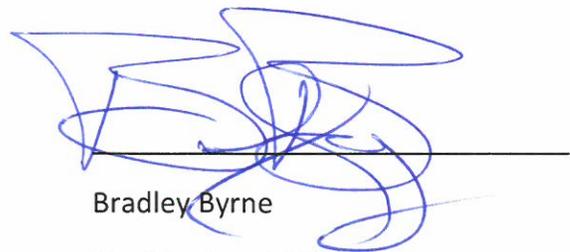
SUPPORT FOR BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE SEARCH FOR A PERMANENT PRESIDENT

- 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

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-6b60d53f301b0a3e7011715b>

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



Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 22, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

With this letter, we are lending our support for the Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) request of \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Grant Program funding a feasibility study for pier improvements along the Mobile River.

Due to the rapid growth of the Port, we feel this project is crucial to maintaining operational fluidity at the port and ensuring more jobs for the (city/state/community).

This project will assist the Alabama Port Authority in determining the highest and best use of their facilities, which operate in geographically limited areas bordered by low-income communities, downtown entertainment districts, business districts, federal interstate systems, and a vast network of railway infrastructure.

According to a 2021 economic impact study, The Port of Mobile is responsible for \$85 billion in annual economic impact statewide, generating 312,896 jobs across Alabama.

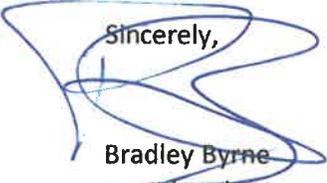
The Port is strategically located in the northern Gulf of Mexico with access to an international airport and two interstate systems, I-65 running north/south and I-10 running east/west. The intermodal container transfer facility (ICTF), which will be an on-dock facility by 2025, provides access to five Class I and four short-line railroads. From the ICTF in Mobile, containers can reach Chicago in three days.

The Alabama Port Authority serves all 67 counties in Alabama and oversees the deep-water public port facilities at the Port of Mobile. In addition to interstate, air, and rail, the Port Authority's container, general cargo, and bulk facilities have immediate access to nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterways. Once the channel deepening and widening project is completed in early 2025, the Port of Mobile will be the deepest container terminal in the Gulf of Mexico.

With the Port's vast assets and rapid growth in mind, we support this study to determine the highest and best use of Port Authority property to serve customers and create jobs.

We have enjoyed our long-standing partnership in the community with the Alabama State Port Authority and support their efforts to continue to improve our community.

Sincerely,


Bradley Byrne
President/CEO
Mobile Chamber

February 28, 2023

To the Members of the United States Congress:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our members across the country, we write to unequivocally oppose the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) proposed rule to impose a nationwide ban on almost all noncompete clauses. The FTC lacks the constitutional or statutory authority to issue such a rule and, in attempting to do so, the agency is improperly usurping the role of Congress.

Moreover, this sweeping rule would invalidate millions of contracts around the country that courts, scholars, and economists have found entirely reasonable and beneficial for both businesses and employees. Accordingly, we ask you to exercise your oversight and appropriations authority to closely examine the FTC's proposed rulemaking.

Congress never granted the FTC the statutory authority to issue rules regulating competition, such as the contractual relationship between employers and employees, which even advocates for action in this area, like Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), recognize.¹ Rather, Congress granted targeted statutory authority to FTC to issue rules to protect consumers, such as to prevent fraud and false advertising. The FTC's authority with respect to competition issues is limited to adjudicating individual cases where competition issues are involved where the FTC must consider the factual context and reasonableness of conduct in each such matter.

The FTC has not attempted to promulgate a competition rule for decades, across administrations of both parties. In the past, Congress curbed FTC's excesses with appropriations riders, and we encourage Congress to revisit such tools today.

The Supreme Court recently recognized the important Constitutional limitations on the ability of executive agencies to issue major rules such as that proposed here without clear guidance from Congress. Two years ago in *AMG Capital Management v. FTC*, for example, the Supreme Court unanimously rejected the FTC's claims that it could interpret its own statutes to claim broad authority. In cases involving other agencies, courts have invoked the major questions and non-delegation doctrines to strike down agency excesses and to preserve the role of elected officials in addressing important issues. We urge Congress to reassert its Constitutional role to resolve issues of national importance and limit attempts to usurp this authority through unauthorized regulatory overreach.

Finally, the FTC's blanket ban on noncompete clauses is vastly overbroad and likely will harm both employees and employers. Courts, scholars, and economists all have found that noncompete clauses, when properly used, encourage investment in employees and help to protect intellectual property. Forty-seven states permit noncompete clauses, which have traditionally been an issue of state law.

To be sure, courts do not and should not enforce unreasonably restrictive noncompete clauses, but therein lies the wisdom of our current system: reasonable, procompetitive noncompetes stand, whereas unreasonable, anticompetitive ones fall.

We thank you for your attention to this issue and we ask you to exercise your oversight and appropriations authority to rein in FTC's unauthorized rulemaking banning noncompete agreements.

Sincerely,

National

ACA International
ACT | The App Association
Advanced Medical Technology Association
Aerospace Industries Association
Alternative Investment Management Association
American Bakers Association
American Beverage
American Coatings Association
American Financial Services Association
American Hotel & Lodging Association
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
American Staffing Association
American Trucking Associations
ANA - Association of National Advertisers
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association
Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
Direct Selling Association
Electronic Transactions Association
Energy Marketers of America
Federation of American Hospitals
FIA Principal Traders Group
FMI - The Food Industry Association
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association
Heating, Air-Conditioning, & Refrigerant Distributors International
HR Policy Association

Independent Electrical Contractors
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
International Franchise Association
International Sign Association
ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Littler Mendelson Workplace Policy Institute
Medical Alley Association
Metals Service Center Institute
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals
National Association of Broadcasters
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Association of Electrical Distributors
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National Association of Professional Employer Organizations
National Association of Security Companies
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Federation of Independent Business
National Independent Automobile Dealers Association (NIADA)
National Mining Association

National Newspaper Association
National Pest Management Association
(NPMA)
National Propane Gas Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Truck Equipment Association
National Waste & Recycling Association
Reinsurance Association of America
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Securities Industry and Financial Markets
Association
SIFMA Asset Management Group
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Wholesale & Specialty Insurance
Association (WSIA)

Alabama

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Selma and Dallas County Chamber of
Commerce and Tourism Information

Alaska

Alaska Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of
Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Glendale 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
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of
Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce

Springerville-Eagar Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber
West Valley Chamber of Commerce
Alliance
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

AR State Chamber/AIA
Little Rock Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Rogers Lowell Chamber of Commerce

California

Brea Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of California Chambers Orange
County
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado County Chamber
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Joint Chambers Commission
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce
Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Minority Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance

Colorado

Colorado BioScience Association
Colorado Chamber of Commerce
Greater Woodland Park Chamber of
Commerce

Connecticut

Connecticut Business & Industry
Association (CBIA)

Florida

Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Florida Chamber of Commerce

Georgia

Barrow County Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Perimeter Chamber

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Maui Chamber of Commerce

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber
Cascade Chamber of Commerce
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Chamber630
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Cook County Black Chamber of Commerce
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of
Commerce
Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce &
Industry

Indiana

Cedar Lake Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Health Industry Forum
South Bend Regional Chamber
Valpo Chamber
Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce

Iowa

Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Mason City Chamber of Commerce
Spencer Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Kentucky

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

Louisiana

Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Louisiana Association of Business and
Industry

Maryland

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Massachusetts

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Detroit Regional Chamber
Grand Rapids Chamber
Holly Area Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association
(MichBio)
Michigan Chamber

Minnesota

Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Glencoe Area Chamber of Commerce
Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Waconia Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council

Montana

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

Nebraska

Auburn Chamber of Commerce
Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce &
Gage County Tourism
Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce
Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce &
Industry
West Point Chamber of Commerce

Nevada

Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Vegas Chamber

New Hampshire

Business & Industry Association of New
Hamshire

New Jersey

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of
Commerce
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)
New Jersey Civil Justice Institute
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical
Association (NMBio)

New York

Capital Region Chamber
North Country Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina

NC Chamber

North Dakota

Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks
Greater North Dakota Chamber

Ohio

Cedarville Area Chamber of Commerce
Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Shawnee Hills Area Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
State Chamber of Oklahoma

Oregon

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry
Oregon State Chamber
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Chester County Chamber of Business and
Industry
Greater Latrobe Laurel Valley Regional
Chamber of Commerce
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
Industry
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of
Commerce
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County Chamber of Commerce
South West Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Westmoreland County 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

Tennessee

Blount County Chamber of Commerce

Kingsport Chamber

Texas

Abilene Chamber of Commerce

Central Fort Bend Chamber

Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce

Houston West Chamber of Commerce

Longview TX Chamber of Commerce

North Texas Commission

Texas Association of Business

Utah

BioUtah

Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce

ChamberWest Chamber of Commerce

Payson Santaquin Area Chamber of Commerce

South Valley Chamber

St. George Area Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Blackstone Chamber of Commerce

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce

Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Virginia Peninsula Chamber

Washington

Association of Washington Business

Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce

Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce

Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce

Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce

Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce

Shelton-Mason County Chamber of Commerce

South Kitsap Chamber of Commerce

Washington Retail Association

West Plains Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce

Wyoming

Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce

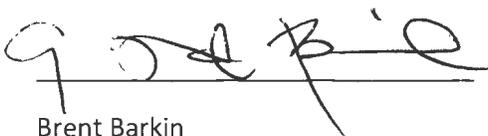
ⁱ Sen. Murphy [noted](#) when introducing legislation related to noncompete agreements in the 117th Congress: “All four of us are very excited about the FTC’s decision to move forward, but we’d like to give them clear statutory authority,” said Murphy, whose proposed [Workforce Mobility Act](#) in the 117th Congress was co-sponsored by Sens. [Todd Young](#) (R-IN), [Tim Kaine](#) (D-VA), and [Kevin Cramer](#) (R-ND).

SUPPORTING ANNEXATION TO GROW THE CITY OF MOBILE

- WHEREAS: Our future development is dependent on a strong, vibrant and expanding city; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Mobile's population has been in decline causing the city to fall from the second largest in the state to the fourth; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Mobile has grown 21 times by annexation throughout the City's history; and
- WHEREAS: From 2010 to 2020, the City of Mobile's population decreased by 4.14% and is projected to continue decreasing; however, during the same time, the population increased between 13-14% in all four of the annexation scenarios and is projected to continue increasing; and
- WHEREAS: Annexation would increase the City of Mobile's population to more than 200,000, the threshold of a "mid-sized" city, which gives access to increased federal funding opportunities; and
- WHEREAS: Without annexation, the City of Mobile will be landlocked by dozens of smaller cities and will be unable to grow now and in the future; and
- WHEREAS: The proposed annexation areas to the west of Mobile's current city limits preserve Mobile's status as a black-majority city; ensure the voting age population in four council districts remains majority-minority; and ensure any annexation would be revenue-positive; and
- WHEREAS: Each of the four proposed annexation areas bring Mobile's overall population above the 200,000 threshold; however, Study Area A provides the most cushion with each of the other three study areas leaving Mobile under 200,000 in just 1-5 years based on population trends; and
- WHEREAS: A city that is not growing is dying, and growing the city through annexation would benefit our entire region and solidify Mobile's significance as the economic engine of southwest Alabama and the entire Gulf Coast region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce urges the members of the City Council to allow the residents in the annexation areas to vote to join the City of Mobile.

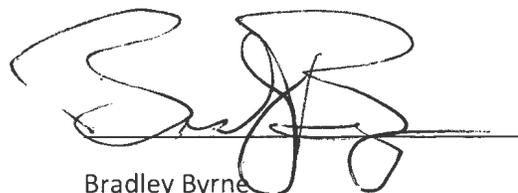
Done this 19th day of April 2023.



Brent Barkin

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Mobile Chamber



Bradley Byrne

President and CEO

Mobile Chamber

July 20, 2023

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations are concerned by the growing possibility of a strike by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in their negotiations for a new labor contract with the United Parcel Service. Given the debilitating impact of a strike on American families and the economy, we urge your Administration to provide the support necessary to help the parties reach a new agreement by the August 1 deadline.

UPS is a vital lifeline for America, moving between 5% and 6% of U.S. GDP, or \$3.8 billion in goods, per day. Parcels delivered by UPS include cancer screening tests, semiconductor chips, baby formula, back-to-school kits, critical parts for agricultural, construction, and telecommunications equipment, and the everyday supplies needed to keep thousands of small businesses running. America also relies on critical medical deliveries enabled by the predictability and reliability of the UPS network, such as vaccines, medical devices, and life-saving medication. Meanwhile, UPS's competitors have stated publicly that, in the event of a work stoppage, they do not have the capacity to absorb the 20 million packages the UPS delivers per day.

A Teamsters strike against UPS could be the costliest such strike in at least a century, with significant and lasting harm for small businesses and online retailers. A strike would lead to months-long backlogs in the supply chain and the interruption of deliveries of critical medical supplies and other essential items. One study estimates that a 15-day UPS strike would harm the health and safety of U.S. consumers by \$55.5 billion; even a 5-day strike at UPS, by this account, would harm the country by \$15.8 billion – or \$3.7 billion per day.¹

With 95% of the negotiations complete and with the current contract set to expire in less than two weeks, there is no time to waste on rhetoric and posturing. Against this backdrop, the Administration has successfully utilized its formal and informal convening power in the past year to help parties reach agreements in both the railroad and West Coast port terminal contract negotiations. We urge you to lend similar help here and work with the parties to help reach an agreement by August 1.

Sincerely,

National
Accessories Council
AdvaMed

Agriculture Transportation Coalition
America's SBDC

¹ J. Gregory Sidak, "Does a Threatened Teamsters Strike at UPS Imperil the National Health or Safety?" (July 10, 2023).

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Down and Feather Council
American Herbal Products Association
American Public Transportation Association
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Rental Association
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA)
American Trucking Associations
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
Association of American Railroads
Association of Food Industries
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Council for Responsible Nutrition
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association
Game Manufacturers Association
Gemini Shippers Association
Glass Packaging Institute
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Greenabl
Greeting Card Association
Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA)
Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International
Home Fashion Products Association
Independent Electrical Contractors
International Dairy Foods Association
International Franchise Association
International Housewares Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)

Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Industrial Transportation League
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Retail Federation
National Ski & Snowboard Retailers Association
National Sporting Goods Association
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
NGV America
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
Personal Care Products Council
Premium Cigar Association
PRINTING United Alliance
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
Tile Roofing Industry Alliance
The Toy Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Alabama

Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce

Alaska

Alaska Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Trucking Association
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce

Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

Arkansas State Chamber of
Commerce/Associated Industries of
Arkansas
Rogers Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

California

Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce
Brea Chamber of Commerce
California Automotive Wholesalers'
Association
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Retailers Association
California Trucking Association
Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
of Northern California
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Hueneme Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight
Forwarders Association
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers
and Freight Forwarders Associations, Inc.
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Customs Brokers Association
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Western States Trucking Association

Colorado

Colorado Chamber of Commerce
Colorado Motor Carriers Association
Vail Valley Partnership

Connecticut

Connecticut Business & Industry
Association (CBIA)

Delaware

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce
Space Coast Black Chamber of Commerce

Georgia

Barrow County Chamber of Commerce
Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of
Commerce
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Habersham County Chamber of Commerce
Heard County Chamber of Commerce
Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Moultrie - Colquitt County Chamber of
Commerce
Murray County Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Hawaii Transportation Association

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce
Idaho Association of Commerce and
Industry
Rexburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Carmi Chamber of Commerce
Chamber 630
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance
Avon Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lafayette Commerce
Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Motor Truck Association
Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce
South Bend Regional Chamber of Commerce

Iowa

Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
Urbandale Chamber of Commerce

Kansas

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Barren Inc., The Barren County Chamber of Commerce
Commerce Lexington
Greater Louisville Inc. -The Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce
Hopkins County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Retailers Association

Massachusetts

Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce
Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Greater Mankato Growth
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Chamber and Visitors Bureau

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council - The State Chamber

Missouri

Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Missouri Retailers Association
Webster Groves/Shrewsbury/Rock Hill Area Chamber of Commerce

Montana

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

Nevada

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Nevada Trucking Association
Retail Association of Nevada
Vegas Chamber of Commerce

New Hampshire

Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire

New Jersey

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

New Jersey Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico Business Coalition

New Mexico Trucking Association, Inc.

New York

Business Council of New York State Inc.

Capital Region Chamber of Commerce

Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina

Moore County Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina Trucking Association

Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce

North Dakota

Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce

Ohio

The Chamber of Commerce Serving Middletown, Monroe, Trenton

Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce

Marion Area Chamber of Commerce

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Ohio Trucking Association

Zanesville-Muskingum County Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce

Oregon

Canby Area Chamber of Commerce

Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce

Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce

North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce

Oregon Business & Industry

Oregon State Chamber of Commerce

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry

Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association

Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce

Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce

Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce

Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina Retail Association

Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Tennessee

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

Texas

Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Greater Taylor Chamber of Commerce

Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce

Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce

Longview Chamber of Commerce

Texas Association of Business

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Utah

South Valley Chamber of Commerce
Utah Trucking Association

Vermont

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Trucking Association

Washington

Association of Washington Business
Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Columbia River Customs Brokers &
Forwarders Association
Customs Brokers & International Freight
Forwarders Association of Washington
Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce
Greater Spokane Incorporated
Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
SnoValley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Washington Retail Association
Washington Trucking Associations

Wisconsin

Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of
Commerce
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce
Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce

July 28, 2023

To the Members of the United States Congress:

The undersigned organizations strongly oppose numerous bills attempting to prohibit arbitration and class action waiver provisions that have been introduced or proposed in the 118th Congress. Arbitration has been an important alternative dispute resolution mechanism since the enactment of the Federal Arbitration Act in 1925. Unfortunately, there is an organized effort underway to dismantle the arbitration system in favor of bringing claims in the broken class action litigation system.

Individualized contract-based arbitration is an efficient, effective, and less expensive means of resolving disputes for consumers, employees, and businesses. Multiple empirical studies have shown that those bringing claims in arbitration do just as well as or, in many circumstances better than in court.¹ By contrast, studies have also shown that class action settlements frequently provide only a pittance – or many times, nothing at all – to class members while millions of dollars are paid to their attorneys.²

Opponents of arbitration mischaracterize how arbitration works to paint its use as unfair. The reality is that arbitration providers and courts ensure that arbitration operates fairly and that arbitration agreements are enforced only if they meet basic guarantees of fairness and due process. For example, the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the country's largest arbitration provider, developed fairness rules for employment and consumer arbitrations. It will not accept a case unless the arbitration agreement complies with those standards. These rules require that arbitrators must be neutral and disclose any conflict of interest and give both parties an equal say in selecting the arbitrator; limit the fees paid by employees and consumers to \$350 and \$225 respectively – equal to or less than the filing fee in federal court; empower the arbitrator to order any necessary discovery; and require that damages, punitive damages, and attorneys' fees be awardable to the claimant to the same extent as in court. And the AAA rules require that consumers be given the option of resolving their dispute in small claims court. JAMS, another leading arbitration provider, requires similar protections—as do other arbitration providers.

The courts provide another layer of oversight. If an arbitration provision is unfair, courts can and do step in and declare those arbitration agreements unconscionable and unenforceable. Also, arbitration agreements cannot prevent consumers or employees from publicly discussing

¹ See Fairer, Faster, Better III: An Empirical Assessment of Consumer and Employment Arbitration (March 2022) available at <https://institutelegalreform.com/research/update-an-empirical-assessment-of-consumer-employment-cases-in-arbitration-litigation/>.

² See Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Arbitration Study: Report to Congress (March 2015) available at https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201503_cfpb_arbitration-study-report-to-congress2015.pdf. Finding that 87% of resolved class actions resulted in no benefit to absent class members, and in the rare cases they did, the average settlement payment was no better than \$32.35 per class member, but attorneys' fees averaged \$1 million per case.

claims with government agencies nor can arbitrators' decisions be kept secret. Courts have invalidated arbitration agreements that purported to impose a "gag order." And courts consistently hold that either party may disclose the results of arbitration proceedings.

Despite a lack of evidence showing a systemic problem with arbitration, multiple bills and amendments have been introduced and proposed in the 118th Congress that attack the availability of arbitration and class action waivers in numerous contexts such as employment disputes, consumer contracts, data privacy, multiple types of discrimination claims, and antitrust disputes, among others.³

If successful, these legislative efforts would declare unenforceable potentially millions of arbitration provisions that allow for the orderly and economical resolution of disputes. Opponents of pre-dispute arbitration fail to acknowledge that, if enacted, these provisions and bills will limit the realistic opportunity for consumers and employees to obtain a remedy if a dispute arises. The only real beneficiaries of these anti-arbitration provisions will be class action lawyers who would benefit from the possibility of bringing more class action lawsuits that enrich them while providing little benefit to class members.

These attacks on arbitration are inaccurate, unnecessary, and would undermine an important alternative to litigation that has benefited consumers, employees, and businesses for decades, and on which many of them now rely. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to oppose attempts to prohibit arbitration or class action waivers.

Sincerely,

National

ACA International

American Financial Services Association

American Health Care Association

American International Automobile Dealers Association

American Property Casualty Insurance Association

American Securities Association

American Staffing Association

American Tort Reform Association

AMERICAN TRANSACTION PROCESSORS COALITION

Bank Policy Institute

Credit Union National Association

Cruise Lines International Association

CTIA

Electronic Transactions Association

³ See, e.g., H.R. 2953, H.R. 20, H.R. 4120, H.R. 3038, H.R. 2998, H.R. 731, H.R. 2701, proposed amendments 88 and 232 to H.R. 2670, S. 1376, S. 567, S. 1979, S. 1408, S. 220, S. 178, and S. 631. These are just some among the litany of proposed bills and amendments.

Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association
HR Policy Association
Independent Women's Forum
Independent Women's Law Center
Independent Women's Voice
Lawyers for Civil Justice
Littler Workplace Policy Institute
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National Club Association
National Retail Federation
Real Estate Services Providers Council, Inc. (RESPRO®)
Reinsurance Association of America
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Window & Door Manufacturers Association

Alabama

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Shoals Chamber of Commerce
SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

Alaska

Alaska Chamber

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber

Arkansas

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

California

Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce
Brea Chamber of Commerce
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Civil Justice Association of California
Coalition of California Chambers Orange
County
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
LA Area Chamber of Commerce
La Canada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Moorpark Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of
Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
SGV Regional Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce

South Orange County Economic Coalition
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

Connecticut

The Connecticut Business & Industry
Association (CBIA)

Florida

Florida Chamber of Commerce Litigation &
Regulatory Reform Center
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Lake City - Columbia County Chamber of
Commerce
Stuart/Martin County Chamber of
Commerce
Turkish American Chamber of Commerce of
the South
Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Georgia

Charlton County Okefenokee Chamber of
Commerce
Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of
Commerce
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Habersham County Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber

Illinois

Chamber 630

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Illinois Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Indiana

Greater Lafayette Commerce

Greater Lawrence Chamber

Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce

South Bend Regional Chamber

Iowa

Iowa Association of Business and Industry

Kansas

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Greater Louisville Inc. - The Metro Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry

Louisiana Legal Reform Coalition

Maryland

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Massachusetts

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Greater Mankato Growth

Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council

Missouri

Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Missouri Civil Justice Reform Coalition, Inc.

Montana

Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture & Dillon Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)

Billings Chamber of Commerce

Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Wahoo Chamber & Economic Development

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Nevada

Henderson Chamber of Commerce

Laughlin Chamber of Commerce

Laughlin Tourism Commission

Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce

Vegas Chamber

White Pine Chamber of Commerce

New Hampshire

BIA of NH

New Jersey

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of
Commerce

New Jersey Civil Justice Institute

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

New York

The Business Council of New York

Capital Region Chamber

Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York

North Carolina

Charlotte Regional Business Alliance

NC Chamber

Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce

North Dakota

The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand
Forks

Greater North Dakota Chamber

Ohio

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Oregon

Canby Area Chamber of Commerce

Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce

North Clackamas County Chamber of
Commerce

Oregon Business & Industry

Oregon State Chamber

Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
Industry

Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice
Reform

Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of
Commerce

Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce

Southern Chester County Chamber of
Commerce

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce

Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greenville Chamber
Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Kingsport Chamber
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Texas

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission
Texans for Lawsuit Reform
Texas Association of Business

Utah

Davis Chamber of Commerce
The Salt Lake Chamber
Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Blackstone Chamber of Commerce

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
ChamberRVA
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Washington

Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Covington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce
Greater Vancouver Chamber
Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
Washington Retail Association

West Virginia

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

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

September 13, 2023

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations are concerned by the growing possibility of a strike by the United Auto Workers (UAW) in their negotiations for a new labor contract with General Motors, Stellantis, and Ford Motor Company (Detroit Three). A UAW strike would impose significant hardship on American families and the economy so we, therefore, urge you and your Administration to provide the support necessary to help the parties reach a new agreement by the September 14 deadline.

The Detroit Three are critical to our economy. They produced 4.8 million vehicles in the U.S. in 2022, alongside 3.5 million engines, and 5.6 million transmissions.¹ A 2020 report² shows that the Detroit Three are supported by 238,000 employees at 260 assembly plants, manufacturing facilities, research labs, distribution centers, and other facilities across 31 states. They work with nearly 9,700 dealerships, which employ nearly 660,000 U.S. workers. Additionally, every vehicle that rolls off the assembly line of a Detroit Three automaker contains anywhere from 8,000 to 12,000 different components manufactured by over 5,600 U.S. suppliers. Over 690,000 supplier jobs are estimated to be tied to the Detroit Three, which accounts for anywhere from 20% to 70% of their business. This means a strike will quickly impact large segments of the economy, leading to layoffs and potentially even bankruptcies of U.S. businesses. While UAW's 40-day strike on General Motors in 2019 forced suppliers to temporarily lay off approximately 75,000 workers, every indication is that a strike today would be significantly more severe for many businesses. Indeed, one analysis estimates a 10-day UAW strike could result in economic losses of more than \$5 billion.³

No one should want a strike. The Administration has already employed its formal and informal convening power in the past year to help parties reach agreements in the freight railroad, West Coast port terminal, and UPS-Teamster contract negotiations. We urge you to lend similar help here and work with the parties to help reach an agreement by September 14.

Sincerely,

¹ IHIS Markit data 2022

² www.americanautomakers.org/sites/default/files/AAPC%20ECR%20Q3%202020.pdf

³ <https://www.andersoneconomicgroup.com/10-day-uaw-strike-against-big-three-could-cause-economic-losses-exceeding-5-billion/>

National

American Composite Manufacturers
Association
American Foundry Society
Armenian American Chamber of Commerce
Auto Care Association
Business Roundtable
MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association
National Association of Manufacturers
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Alabama

Automotive Aftermarket Association
Southeast
Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of
Commerce
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Selma and Dallas County Chamber of
Commerce and Tourism Information
SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of
Commerce

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of
Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of
Commerce
Peoria Chamber of Commerce
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber

Arkansas

Little Rock Regional Chamber

California

Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of
Commerce
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of
Commerce
Redding Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
Commerce
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Vista Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance

Florida

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of
Commerce

Georgia

Dade County Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pooler Area Chamber of Commerce
Habersham County Chamber of Commerce
Murray County Chamber of Commerce
Newton Chamber of Commerce

Taylor County Chamber of Commerce

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber
Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Cook County Black Chamber
Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Main
Street
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Grundy County Chamber of Commerce &
Industry
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce
Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce
RiverBend Growth Association
Streator Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce
LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce
South Bend Regional Chamber
Tipton County Chamber of Commerce
Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce

Iowa

Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Union County Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Central LA Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Maryland

Talbot County Chamber of Commerce

Massachusetts

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce
Clare Area Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Flint & Genesee Chamber
Grand Rapids Chamber
Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber
Macomb County Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan West Coast Chamber of
Commerce
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Delano Area Chamber of Commerce
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of
Commerce

Montana

Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Nevada

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Vegas Chamber of Commerce

New Hampshire

Business & Industry Association (BIA) of
NH

New Jersey

African American Chamber of Commerce of
New Jersey
GWACC Chamber of Commerce
NJ State Chamber of Commerce

New York

Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Business Council of NYS, Inc.

North Carolina

Caldwell Chamber
Moore County Chamber of Commerce
NC Chamber

North Dakota

Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks
Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC

Ohio

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Partnership
Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce
Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Marion Area Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce
State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce
North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry

Pennsylvania

Alle Kiski Strong Chamber
Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre
County
Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional
Chamber of Commerce
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
Industry
Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of
Commerce
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce
Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Kingsport Chamber
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce
White House Area Chamber of Commerce

Texas

East Parker County Chamber of Commerce
Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Sherman Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Blackstone Chamber of Commerce
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Chamber
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Washington

Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of
Commerce
Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Puyallup Sumner Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wyoming

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce



November 7, 2023

Submitted via www.regulations.gov

Amy DeBisschop
Director
Division of Regulations, Legislation, and Interpretation
Wage and Hour Division
U.S. Department of Labor
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Room S-3502
Washington, DC 20210

**RE: Proposed Rule Defining and Delimiting the Exemption for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales, and Computer Employees
RIN 1235-AA39; 88 Fed. Reg. 62152 (September 8, 2023)**

Dear Ms. DeBisschop:

The Partnership to Protect Workplace Opportunity (“PPWO”) submits these comments on the Department of Labor (“DOL” or “the Department”)’s proposal to raise the salary threshold for the executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employee exemptions (the “EAP exemption”) from the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) (the “Proposed Rule”). The PPWO is a coalition of a diverse group of associations and other stakeholders representing employers from the private, nonprofit, and public sector with millions of “white collar” employees across the country in almost every industry who will be affected by the proposed changes.

The PPWO’s members believe that employees and employers alike are best served with a system that promotes maximum flexibility in structuring employee hours, career advancement opportunities for employees, and clarity for employers in classifying their employees under the FLSA. Unfortunately, as we describe below, if implemented as written, the Proposed Rule will result in large numbers of employees being reclassified as non-exempt, with significant consequences for both the reclassified employees and their employers. By way of example, the PPWO is deeply concerned that such reclassification will:

- Harm the ability of employers to provide, and employees to take advantage of, remote work and flexible scheduling options which have become increasingly popular since being introduced during the pandemic and also help alleviate the growing childcare crisis;
- Limit career advancement opportunities for employees;
- Reduce employee access to a variety of additional benefits, including incentive pay;
- Limit employers' ability to provide employees with mobile devices and remote electronic access, further limiting employee flexibility;
- Result in employees in the same job classification (for the same employer) being classified and treated differently based on regional cost-of-living differences, facility profitability, or other factors that impact budget;
- Force employees to be reassigned or let go as employers make operational changes needed to achieve the organization's mission under new pay and staffing paradigms;
- Trigger declines in employee morale, particularly in cases where peers remain exempt since exempt status is often seen as a higher status;
- Increase FLSA litigation based on off-the-clock and regular rate of pay claims; and
- Introduce other legal and operational issues, such as increased administrative costs.

Moreover, given the Department's proposal to increase the salary level on a triennial basis, these are not one-time issues. Rather, these issues will recur repeatedly, as employers decide with each salary threshold increase whether continued classification of an employee as exempt is worth the annual salary increase.

As a preliminary matter, the Department itself recognizes that the exemptions are premised on the belief that "exempted workers typically earn salaries well above the minimum wage and are presumed to enjoy other privileges to compensate them for their long hours of work. These include, for example, above-average fringe benefits and better opportunities for advancement, setting them apart from nonexempt workers entitled to overtime pay."¹ Yet, because the Proposed Rule would increase the salary level by nearly 70 percent, from \$35,568 annually to \$60,209 annually,² and

¹ 88 Fed. Reg. 62154.

² At the outset, the PPWO objects to the Department's intentional lack of clarity as to what exactly it is proposing to set as the salary threshold for the EAP exemption. Although its press release claims that the Proposed Rule will increase the salary threshold to \$1,059 per week, or \$55,068 annually—itsself an increase of almost 55 percent—the Department buries in a footnote the fact that assuming a final rule is promulgated in the first quarter of 2024, the salary threshold would in fact be \$1,158 per week, or \$60,209 annually, an increase of \$24,641 per year. *See* 88 Fed. Reg. 62153 n. 3. While a final rule propounded in, say, the second quarter of 2024 would likely include an even higher threshold, these comments proceed from the assumption that the Department will issue a final rule in that first quarter, and use the Department's own prediction as to the likely amount of the threshold in a final rule issued at that time.

increase the highly-compensated exemption (“HCE”) from \$107,432 per year to \$143,988 per year (an increase of 34 percent), it would have the perverse effect of forcing many employers to take away the benefits and opportunities for advancement for those employees who will lose exempt status.

Due to these significant impacts the Proposed Rule likely will have on employers, the regulated community made hundreds of requests to extend the comment period to allow additional time to evaluate the consequences of this rulemaking. In rejecting those requests, the Department relied primarily on its assertion that it had engaged in “listening sessions” on the EAP exemption last year. These sessions are, of course, not part of the regulatory record. More important, these “listening sessions” did not include actual, concrete proposals upon which stakeholders could comment. “An” increase to the salary level is meaningless for analytical purposes; only when a dollar figure is attached can meaningful and valuable analysis take place. Furthermore, none of the points raised by employers during the listening sessions are reflected in the Proposed Rule.

Coupling the surprisingly high proposed salary level with its effort to permanently index that salary level, it is clear that the Department’s belief that 60 days is sufficient for comment is erroneous. If the Department was interested in obtaining the best possible information with which to assess the impact of its proposal, it would have given additional time for comment. Indeed, by denying the request for additional time in which to comment, the Department deprived the PPWO and others of the chance to provide crucial information to the agency, including hard data that would have been highly pertinent to its decision-making.

Finally, it bears note that the Department has propounded the Proposed Rule during a time of intense economic uncertainty, in which employers are experiencing extreme inflationary pressure in the marketplace. The Proposed Rule, which will dramatically increase costs for employers, could not come at a worse time.

At a time when more and more workers seek additional flexibility in their schedules and an ownership stake in their work, the Department’s proposal will return us to a 1940s mentality of clock-punching for all but the most highly paid employees. As detailed below, this result is bad for employees, bad for employers, and bad for the economy. We urge the Department to reconsider its decision to proceed with such a disruptive rulemaking.

Before turning to analysis of the Proposed Rule, a brief review of the Department’s recent history on this topic is instructive.

I. The Department’s Prior Attempt to Impose a Similar Formula to Increase and Index the EAP Exemption Salary Threshold Demonstrates that the Proposed Rule Is Unlikely to Withstand Judicial Scrutiny.

In 2016, the Department promulgated a final rule (the “2016 Final Rule”) which pegged the EAP exemption threshold to the 40th percentile of weekly earnings for full-time salaried workers in the lowest wage Census Region (the South). That rule raised the minimum salary level

for the EAP exemption to \$913 per week, or \$47,476 annually—more than double the then-existing threshold.³ The 2016 Final Rule was challenged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.⁴ The court enjoined and later vacated the rule, concluding that its unprecedentedly high minimum salary threshold essentially negated the “duties test” for the exemption in contravention of the FLSA. As the court explained:

Specifically, the Department’s authority is limited to determining the essential qualities of, precise signification of, or marking the limits of those “bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity” employees who perform exempt duties and should be exempt from overtime pay. *With this said, the Department does not have the authority to use a salary-level test that will effectively eliminate the duties test as prescribed by Section 213(a)(1)* ... Nor does the Department have the authority to categorically exclude those who perform “bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity” duties based on salary level alone. *In fact, the Department admits, “[T]he Secretary does not have the authority under the FLSA to adopt a ‘salary only’ test for exemption.”*

The Final Rule more than doubles the Department’s previous minimum salary level, increasing it from \$455 per week (\$23,660 annually) to \$913 per week (\$47,476 annually). *This significant increase would essentially make an employee’s duties, functions, or tasks irrelevant if the employee’s salary falls below the new minimum salary level. As a result, entire categories of previously exempt employees who perform “bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity” duties would now qualify for the EAP exemption based on salary alone.*⁵

In simplest terms, the court found that the 2016 Final Rule’s salary threshold—which was significantly less than the salary level set forth in the Proposed Rule—violated the FLSA by “essentially mak[ing] an employee’s duties, functions or tasks irrelevant” for a wide swath of workers, in contravention of clear Congressional intent.^{6, 7} That the Department now expects the adoption of an even higher threshold only a few years later to pass muster is at best optimistic, and at worst disingenuous. As set forth below, for the same reasons that the 2016 Final Rule was found to be unlawful, a final rule that materially resembles that which the Department has proposed is

³ It also increased the so-called “highly-compensated exemption” (“HCE”) to \$134,000 annually—an increase of 34 percent, and, as the Proposed Rule does, included a triennial automatic escalator clause.

⁴ See *Nevada v. U.S. Department of Labor*, 275 F. Supp. 3d 795 (E.D. Tex. 2017) (holding that 2016 Final Rule exceeded DOL’s authority under FLSA).

⁵ *Id.* at 805 (emphases added).

⁶ *Id.* at 806.

⁷ Subsequent to the invalidation of the 2016 Final Rule, the Department promulgated a final rule in 2019 which raised the salary threshold to the current \$684 per week or \$35,568 annually, and increased the HCE to its current \$107,432 per year.

highly likely to meet a similar fate. The Department should abandon this ill-timed and unnecessary effort.

II. The Minimum Salary Level Proposed by the Department Is Excessively High to Satisfy its Gatekeeper Function, Is Inappropriately Disruptive to Employers with National Operations, and Will Harm the Very Employees the Department Purports to Protect.

The proposed salary level, which would be higher than the exempt salary levels set under state law in almost every state in the union, is far too high to effectuate its historical “gatekeeping” purpose. It will force employers to make classification decisions that ignore regional economic differences and will cause significant disruption in the workplace. The wage costs, administrative expenses, and intangible consequences of the Department’s proposal will be significant, particularly when considered against the fact that if the Department’s estimate of impact is correct—which it is not—some 85 percent of the employees potentially impacted by this rulemaking will see no change in compensation and no change in hours worked.⁸

A. The Department’s Proposed Minimum Salary Is Too High to Achieve Its Historical, Gatekeeping Purpose.

The Department has long recognized the “salary level’s historic function of screening obviously non-exempt employees from the exemption, a ‘principle [that] has been at the heart of the Department’s interpretation of the EAP exemption for over 75 years.’”⁹ That is, the salary level should be set at a level at which the employees below it clearly would not meet any duties test; above the level, employees would still need to meet a duties test in order to qualify for exemption. In setting the proposed level as high as it has, however, the Department has turned this analysis on its head. The Department seems to be setting the salary level at a point at which all employees above the line would be exempt, turning the salary level from its historical role as a screening device into the *de facto* sole test and a mechanism for greatly limiting the ability of employers to avail themselves of these exemptions. Indeed, built into the Department’s (erroneous) assumption that litigation will decrease as a result of this rulemaking is the belief that employees above the line will be more clearly exempt.¹⁰ That has never been the Department’s goal in setting the salary level.

Such a dramatic departure from the historical purpose of the salary level will have far-reaching consequences. The Department’s proposed minimum salary level will force employers to reclassify positions that clearly meet the duties test where the nature of the industry (*e.g.*, non-

⁸ See 88 Fed. Reg. 62195 (roughly 85 percent of workers potentially impacted by salary level change do not usually work overtime).

⁹ *Id.* at 62165 (citing *Defining and Delimiting the Exemption for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales, and Computer Employees; Final Rule*, 84 Fed. Reg. 51230, 51241 (September 27, 2019)).

¹⁰ See *id.* at 62157 (“The Department has long recognized that the salary level test is a useful criterion for identifying bona fide EAP employees and providing a practical guide for employers and employees, thus tending to reduce litigation...”).

profit, or many employers in the health care industry)¹¹ or the regional economy cannot justify a salary increase.

Where 1.6 million positions that meet the duties test will need to be reclassified (or have their salaries increased) as a result of the salary level, the new salary level ceases to function as a gatekeeper. The Department should reconsider its proposal and, to the extent that an increase to the minimum salary level is deemed to still be appropriate, that salary level should be set in accordance with the historical purpose of the salary level test—to exclude clearly non-exempt employees from further analysis.

B. The Department’s Proposed Minimum Salary Level Fails to Account for Regional Economic and Market Differences.

Despite the Department’s suggestion to the contrary, the methodology for determining the salary threshold set forth in the Proposed Rule fails to account for regional differences.¹²

As the Department is well aware, the federal government considers geographic variations when setting the compensation levels for its own employees. Among some of the highest compensation levels set by the federal government are those in California and New York.¹³ Setting a salary level that approximates the minimum level determined in some of the highest-cost regions in the country demonstrates just how far removed from the historical role of the salary level test the Department’s proposed salary level is.

The Department’s own estimate suggests that under the Proposed Rule, fully one-quarter of salaried workers will have their exemption status determined by the salary test alone.¹⁴ While this may be true on a national basis, it is equally true that a much higher proportion of workers in lower-wage areas and those outside of large metro areas will be classified as exempt (or not) based solely on the salary threshold; there are substantial pay differences based on geographical region and pay differences between larger and smaller cities that are unlikely to be related to differences in job duties. Indeed, one estimate suggest that for many jobs, including occupations in which the Department assumes (based on dated and faulty data, discussed below) that the vast majority of workers in such jobs pass the duties test, the Proposed Rule’s increased salary threshold is not a “gatekeeper” but rather the alpha-and-omega of their exempt status.¹⁵

¹¹ It bears particular note that the Proposed Rule neglects to consider the practical impact of its draconian increases on those employers who cannot offset higher wages or additional overtime by simply raising their prices. For example, non-profits often rely on donations and grants to maintain their revenues; these sources of income will not be increased simply because the Department raises the EAP exemption threshold. Similarly, health-care employers often largely depend on reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance which, again, are unlikely to increase simply because the Department adjusts its regulations.

¹² See 88 Fed. Reg. 62167.

¹³ For example, in 2023, the federal government provides a locality pay differential of 36.16 percent for employees in the New York metropolitan areas and 44.15 percent for employees in the San Francisco area.

¹⁴ See 88 Fed. Reg. 62158.

¹⁵ See Stephen G. Bronars, Ph.D. & Deborah K. Foster, Ph.D., Edgeworth Economics, “Regional Implications of DOL’s White-Collar Exemption Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” (Oct. 24, 2023), available at:

For example, in ten job categories in which the Department assumes employees are highly likely (90 to 100 percent) to pass the duties test, between 24 and 40 percent of them on a national basis will fail to meet the Proposed Rule's increased salary threshold.¹⁶ With respect to employees in the South and Midwest Census regions, that range increases to 28 to 48 percent—almost half.¹⁷ And with respect to employees working in the South and Midwest regions outside large metro areas, somewhere between 34 and 70 percent of workers will fail to meet the increased salary threshold.¹⁸

This effective elimination of the exemption for certain low-cost-of-living areas of the country makes clear that the Department is once again exceeding its statutory authority. Congress directed the Department to define and delimit the terms in the statute; it cannot possibly have meant that the Department should effectively eliminate the exemption in certain regions. But because the minimum salary has been proposed at such a high level, that is precisely what the Department is doing. The South and Midwest will be placed at a competitive disadvantage to other regions; employers in urban areas will be able to maintain exempt employees at a rate that far exceeds rural areas.

These facts are especially troubling insofar as the Department's impact calculations rely on outdated and flawed data. The Department's predictions as to the probability of employees passing the duties test are based on a 1999 study of the General Accounting Office, which itself relied upon information provided by DOL in the 1990s—more than three decades ago.¹⁹ The Census Bureau has since updated occupation classifications on several occasions during this time to reflect the realities of the 21st century workforce; nevertheless, the Department continues to apply 1999 probability ranges that may bear little to no resemblance to jobs in the current labor market.

Nor will the impact of the proposed salary level simply be limited to employers in the lower-cost-of-living regions in the country. Many employers with national operations will be impacted as well. Because the cost of living varies greatly throughout the country, employers often have different salaries for the same job position depending on where the employee works, similar to how the federal government operates. The job duties are precisely the same. The only thing that differs is location.

For example, an employee in New York City will have a higher cost of living than an employee working in Knoxville, Tennessee. Accordingly, the employer may provide the employee in New York with a higher salary than the employee with the same job title and job responsibilities in Knoxville. With the Department's proposed increase to the minimum salary

<https://www.edgewortheconomics.com/publication-6501> (last visited October 20, 2023). Indeed, over 100 million people—more than 30 percent of the U.S. population—live in the South and Midwest but not within large metro areas. For these individuals, the Proposed Rule's salary threshold exceeds the 40th percentile of full-time salaried pay, and one-third of them in jobs which the Department predicts will routinely pass the duties test will not satisfy the salary threshold. *See id.*

¹⁶ *See id.*

¹⁷ *See id.*

¹⁸ *See id.*

¹⁹ *See* 88 Fed. Reg. 62188.

level, that employer may now need to decide whether the economics of the Knoxville location justify an increase to the new salary level or whether the Knoxville position will need to be reclassified as non-exempt. This again demonstrates the Department's significant departure from the traditional role of the salary test. In too many of these instances, salary, rather than job duties, will determine exempt status, in contravention of both the text and the purpose of the FLSA.

C. The Department's Proposed Minimum Salary Will Negatively Impact the Ability of Employees to Work in Part-Time Capacities.

The Department's proposed increase to the minimum salary level will negatively impact the ability of employers to provide part-time exempt positions. Although the current regulatory scheme does not permit part-time exempt employees on a *pro rata* basis, the PPWO believes that such an adjustment is necessary under the proposed salary level to ensure that these types of positions can remain exempt and, therefore, continue to be offered.

Because it is not clear from the Department's statements in the preamble that it fully understands this issue, we provide the following example. Under the current regulations, an employee who performs tasks that clearly meet one or more of the exemption duties tests can be classified as exempt so long as his or her salary exceeds \$35,568 per year. Thus, a part-time employee working a 50 percent schedule can qualify as exempt so long as they work in a position that has a full-time salary of approximately \$72,000 per year. This is true not because the full-time equivalent salary is \$72,000, but because the half-time salary of \$36,000 is still in excess of the regulatory minimum.

Under the Department's proposed minimum salary level, that employee would no longer qualify for exemption. Instead, in the first year under the Department's proposal, an employee working a 50 percent schedule would need to be working in a position earning more than \$120,500 on a full-time basis. Obviously, without a *pro rata* provision, the number of employees who will be eligible for part-time exempt employment will be significantly limited. This limitation will have a disproportionate impact on women in the workplace, and, in particular, will likely impact mothers who may be seeking to re-enter the workplace as professionals, but not on a full-time basis. Similarly, older workers looking to pursue a phased retirement would likely be disadvantaged by the Department's increased minimum salary level.

If the Department fails to implement a *pro rata* provision, the proposed increase to the minimum salary level will create two classes of employees performing the same work: full-time exempt employees and part-time non-exempt employees. Employers will be unable (for practical purposes) to take a consistent approach to a job because it simply is not feasible to reclassify entire positions as non-exempt due to the issues related to part-time employees. As a result, however, individuals working side-by-side would be subject to different rules and obligations simply because one is a full-time employee, and one is a part-time employee. Although fairness, and the nature of their work, should dictate that such colleagues be treated the same, the Department's proposed salary level would all but require the part-time employee to be treated differently. Teamwork, productivity, and morale will undoubtedly suffer.

In addition to the likely stigma associated with the different classification decisions based on full-time vs. part-time, the Department's proposed salary level would deprive employers of the ability to offer the types of flexible work and scheduling opportunities that are crucial to meeting the demands of the modern workplace. Punching a clock is not conducive to allowing employees to build their schedules around their personal or family needs and preferences. Many job-sharing and part-time opportunities, as well as seasonal positions, will be diminished if an employer cannot classify those positions as exempt.

If the Department permitted the salary to be pro-rated, however, employers would be far more likely to allow such arrangements. We therefore urge the Department to add a *pro rata* provision to the regulations, regardless of the salary level ultimately adopted in a final rule.

D. The Department's Proposed Salary Level Will Negatively Impact Employee Compensation, Flexibility, and Morale.

In creating conditions in which employees must be reclassified to non-exempt status, the Department's proposed salary level will negatively impact many employees' ability to earn incentive compensation. When employees are converted to non-exempt status, they often find that they have lost their ability to earn incentive pay. Under existing rules for calculating overtime rates for hourly workers, many incentive payments must be included in a non-exempt employee's "regular rate" (*i.e.*, the base rate for overtime) of pay. Faced with the difficult calculation (and recalculation) of these overtime rates—sometimes looking back over every pay period in a year—employers often simply forgo these types of incentive payments to nonexempt employees rather than attempt to perform the required calculations.

Although reclassification as a non-exempt employee often has such economic consequences for an employee, reclassification is not limited to those economic consequences. The change to non-exempt status means that many employees also will lose the ability to structure their time to address needs such as attending their child's school activities or scheduling doctors' appointments. Many other employees will lose the opportunity to work from home or remotely, as it can be difficult for employers to track employees' hours in those situations. Employers may also cease providing employees with mobile devices, as any time spent checking them would now have to be accounted for.

In addition, employees often view reclassifications to non-exempt status as "demotions." Particularly where other employees within the same organization will continue to be exempt (due to regional economic variations or full-time status), it is easy to see why. The non-exempt employee will now need to account for their time in a way they have not had to previously, and in a way that their exempt co-workers do not. In addition, because of the increased attention that must be paid to the hours worked by the non-exempt employee, they are likely to be at a competitive disadvantage to the exempt employee in the same role. Many training opportunities will now become compensable time under the FLSA and where those opportunities would put the non-exempt employee into an overtime situation, their access to those opportunities may be limited; the same is not so for their exempt colleague.

Similarly, the non-exempt employee may be limited in their ability to “get it done” now that they must record and account for all hours worked. These types of intangibles—being known as someone who “just gets the job done”—are often considered in whether an employee receives a promotion, bonus, or training opportunity. As a result of the Department’s dramatically increased proposed minimum salary level, career advancement may become more a function of where an employee *sits* than what they actually *do*.

The importance of this issue is worth repeating here: the Department fails to sufficiently acknowledge the reality that many workers view their exempt status as a symbol of their success within the company. In fact, even when all other aspects of the work remain the same and even when their overall compensation increases with the addition of overtime pay, employees frequently view the transition from exempt to non-exempt as a demotion. Far from being enthusiastic, members of the PPWO have described reclassified employees as feeling like they were being disciplined and distraught over being reclassified.

E. Any Increase in the EAP Exemption Salary Threshold Should Be Phased in Over Time and the Department Should Provide an Extended Effective Date.

Despite the numerous negative impacts that would result from increasing the salary to the Department’s suggested level, should it nevertheless decide to increase the salary, the PPWO believes the Department should do so incrementally.²⁰ Specifically-identified interim levels, spread out over the course of several years, will ensure a smooth and compliant transition and will allow employers the necessary time to adjust their budgets, revenues, and work flows to minimize disruption. As currently proposed, the Department’s minimum salary level would increase almost 70 percent in an extraordinarily short amount of time.

In addition, due to the rapid nature of the required increase, employers may make classification decisions today that they would not make if the increase was phased in over multiple years. A gradual and previously specified increase would allow employers the ability to prepare for the changes in a way that makes more economic sense. It also would allow employers to determine with additional certainty how many overtime hours are actually being worked by employees in the \$35,568 to \$60,209 range. Currently, because many of these exempt employees do not record their time, employers are faced with an information deficit. Without information regarding these hours, employers will need to guess at how many hours are worked; those guesses will almost certainly account for more overtime than will actually be worked, resulting in a net loss of income to impacted employees.²¹

²⁰ Additionally, if the minimum salary level is increased from its current level, the Department should ensure that such an increase is consistent with 2004 levels. In 2004, the Department set the minimum salary level at an amount which at that time represented the 20th percentile for salaried employees in the South geographic region and retail industry. While adjusting the 2004 data for inflation would be consistent with the FLSA, it would be equally consistent to use the 2004 methodology and exclude higher wage mid-Atlantic states in the South Census Region, the inclusion of which results in a higher minimum salary level than would otherwise be the case.

²¹ Assuming that an employer attempts to compensate a reclassified employee at approximately the same level as prior to the reclassification, any new salary will be based on an understanding of how many overtime hours will be worked.

By allowing a gradual increase, an employer can begin gathering the necessary data to ensure as smooth a transition as possible and to therefore minimize the monetary impact on both the employee and the business. Although many of the same issues will exist with respect to morale, flexibility, and opportunity, a gradual, phased-in implementation of the new minimum salary would reduce the financial disruption experienced by both employers and employees.

Additionally, given the dramatic increase proposed to the standard salary level, employers will need a significant period of time to comply with these new requirements. It is simply not reasonable to expect employers to assess the impact, plan, and implement appropriate and affordable changes to employees' exempt status, salaries, and job structures all within the time frames the Department has provided, especially when its own estimates indicate that 3.4 million employees nationwide will be impacted by the nearly 70 percent increase in the minimum salary threshold.

Employers will need to familiarize themselves with the final regulation, analyze their workforce, and determine how to comply. This process will require employers to identify all exempt employees earning a salary less than the new required level; evaluate whether to comply by providing a salary increase or reclassifying some or all of such employees to non-exempt; decide whether to pay reclassified employees on an hourly or salaried basis; and draft new compensation plans for reclassified employees. Employers will also need to evaluate whether they need to limit the hours employees work; whether they can still afford to pay bonuses; what adjustments are necessary to benefit plans; and how they will set the new hourly rates or salaries. Finally, employers will need time to communicate the changes to employees and implement the changes.

For these reasons, the PPWO requests that regardless of what new salary level the Department chooses, it set an effective date for 12 to 18 months after publication of the final rule.

F. The Department Should Not Increase the Minimum Required Salary for Application of the Highly Compensated Employee Exemption.

For many of the same reasons discussed above with respect to the standard salary level, the Department should not increase the minimum salary required for application of the HCE exemption. When the Department last adjusted the HCE in 2019, it provided for an increase of roughly 7.4 percent over the existing standard. The Proposed Rule would increase the current standard to \$143,988, a 34 percent increase, and would increase the gap in real dollars between the standard level and the HCE exemption from roughly \$71,900 to almost \$89,000.

Increasing the HCE threshold—and increasing the gap between the standard salary threshold and the HCE threshold—will require employers to dedicate significant resources on administrative, human resources, and legal efforts to determine more precisely whether an employee meets exempt status for employees who (by definition) earn in excess of \$140,000.

Should that understanding be higher than the actual number of overtime hours worked after reclassification, the affected employee will earn less than he or she did prior to reclassification.

Employers will be faced with the task of reviewing the basis on which each employee was accorded exempt status, including employees for whom the exempt status decision was made a decade ago and who may be among the most highly paid employees in the company. The specific reasons why each position is classified as exempt will need to be revisited, and there may not be sufficient records explaining whether an employee is exempt pursuant to application of the HCE test or whether the exempt status is based on application of the standard exempt criteria. A significant amount of administrative effort will be needed to determine that an employee who had been classified as exempt through application of the HCE test remains exempt under application of the standard duties test.

Moreover, although the sample size is significantly smaller, the issues associated with raising the standard threshold discussed at length above remain the same: for example, regional variations within the same business may result in different employees in the same classification being treated differently from an exemption perspective based almost entirely on the location in which they work. In addition, when HCE employees must be reclassified as non-exempt, the issues associated with that reclassification are compounded by the increased compensation level and status of such positions within the business. These employees are likely to have various levels of advanced education and have come to expect to be treated as salaried professionals.

The reasons raised with respect to the Proposed Rule's increase in the standard salary threshold apply in equal force to the HCE threshold. Both counsel the Department to withdraw and rethink the rule in its entirety.

G. The Proposed Rule Will Have a Devastating Impact on the Economy of Puerto Rico; the Current Salary Threshold There Should Be Maintained.

The Proposed Rule would apply the new, increased salary threshold for the standard exemption to a number of U.S. territories, most notably, Puerto Rico. This despite the fact that Congress has made clear its intent that the economy of Puerto Rico merits special treatment with respect to the EAP salary threshold, and that in 2019, the Department, cognizant of this fact, elected not to increase the threshold for Puerto Rico and other territories. The Department should adopt a similar approach in this rulemaking, and absent direction from Congress, maintain the existing salary threshold for these territories generally and Puerto Rico specifically.

The current salary threshold for Puerto Rico is a special salary level most recently reaffirmed in the Department's 2019 final rule, \$455 per week (reflecting the rate then in effect when the Department overhauled the overtime regulations in 2004). As such, the Proposed Rule would increase the standard salary level by a staggering \$703 per week—an increase of over 150 percent from its current level.

When the Department last attempted to raise the EAP salary exemption in Puerto Rico to the standard rate, Congress took decisive action to prevent it from doing so. Specifically, when the Department proposed extending the standard rate to Puerto Rico in its 2015 proposed rule,

Congress responded by enacting the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (“PROMESA”) which, among other things, provided that the then-proposed increase in the standard salary level would have no force or effect in Puerto Rico unless and until the Department provided a determination that applying this salary level would have no negative impact on the economy of Puerto Rico.²² When the Department next updated the EAP salary level in 2019, it recognized “Congress’s apprehension with increasing the salary level in Puerto Rico,” and, in light of the “current economic climate,” set a special salary level that mirrored that which was applied under PROMESA.²³

The Proposed Rule would apply the new salary level in Puerto Rico simply because it is in “accordance with the Department’s longstanding practice, and in the interest of applying the FLSA uniformly to all employees subject to the Federal minimum wage,”²⁴ despite the fact that “the salary levels for the U.S. territories have not changed since 2004, and it understands that U.S. territories face their own economic challenges,” and that these increases “will be more pronounced” in these territories.²⁵ The Proposed Rule would make these changes even though, as the Department expressly recognizes, “data are not available to conduct a full analysis of impacts in the territories.”²⁶

The Proposed Rule would increase the salary exemption threshold in Puerto Rico by more than 150 percent—effectively eliminating the functions of the duties test throughout the territory. Moreover, the proposed salary level would surpass the 90th percentile of Puerto Rico’s wage distribution, effectively eliminating the availability of the exemption entirely. The Department admits it has no data or analysis to support this effort, and has not made any attempt to engage in such analysis. As such, its attempt to wreak devastating economic consequence in the interest of “consistency” because it claims that this is the Department’s “longstanding practice” should be rejected and omitted in any final rule the Department promulgates.

III. The Proposed Rule’s “Indexing” Provisions Violate the FLSA and the APA, Are Contrary to Congressional Intent and the Department’s Own Prior Position, and Fail to Contemplate Its Practical Economic Impacts.

As it did in the failed 2016 Final Rule, the Department again proposes to automatically adjust the EAP exemption salary threshold on a triennial basis. As it lacked the statutory basis under the FLSA to do so then, it so does now. Similarly, as it then lacked the capacity to adjust the minimum salary thresholds without complying with the notice-and-comment requirements of the APA as expressly required by the FLSA, it again lacks that capacity. Finally, just as its prior effort failed to contemplate the practical economic impact of an auto-escalation provision, its current effort again fails to do so. For each of these reasons the Department should abandon any effort to automatically increase the EAP salary threshold in any final rule.

²² See 48 U.S.C. § 2193.

²³ 84 Fed. Reg. 51246.

²⁴ 88 Fed. Reg. 62175.

²⁵ *Id.* at 62175, 62192.

²⁶ *Id.* at 62192.

A. The FLSA Does Not Permit the Department to Adopt Automatic Indexing of the EAP Exemption Salary Level.

First and foremost, the Department lacks the statutory authority under the FLSA to automatically index the EAP exemption salary threshold. The plain terms of 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1) authorize the Secretary of Labor to “define[] and delimit[]” the meaning of the executive, administrative, or professional categories “from time to time by regulations.”²⁷ To be sure, this authorizes the Secretary to revise the regulations setting forth the functions encompassed within a “bona fide executive, administrative, or professional” capacity. But even if increasing the Department’s long-standing salary threshold by almost 70 percent bears some plausible connection to changes in duties performed by exempt employees today—and it does not—there is no reasoned basis to conclude that automatic revisions to the threshold, which will be triggered only three years after a new threshold is set, will have anything to do with changes in duties. To the contrary, the indexing provision in the Proposed Rule is tied exclusively to a percentile of average salary levels for salaried employees, in a specific part the country, regardless of duties. Thus, the indexing provision in the Proposed Rule is utterly unmoored from the focus on the duties an employee performs that Congress specified in the FLSA and intended to serve as the lodestar for the Secretary to use in updating these regulations.

In light of this fact, it is perhaps unsurprising that the Department has previously expressly disclaimed that it has the authority to use indexing when setting the salary level under the FLSA’s overtime provisions. In 2004, the DOL stated that adopting a method of automatic increases is “contrary to congressional intent and inappropriate”²⁸ and that “the Department [found] nothing in the legislative or regulatory history that would support indexing or automatic increases.”²⁹ DOL further explained that such an action is not only contrary to Congressional intent, but would disproportionately impact lower-wage geographic regions and industries:

[S]ome commenters ask the Department to provide for future automatic increases of the salary levels tied to some inflationary measure, the minimum wage or prevailing wages. Other commenters suggest that the Department provide some mechanism for regular review or updates at a fixed interval, such as every five years. Commenters who made these suggestions are concerned that the Department will let another 29 years pass before the salary levels are again increased. The Department intends in the future to update the salary levels on a more regular basis, as it did prior to 1975, and believes that a 29-year delay is unlikely to reoccur. The salary levels should be adjusted when wage survey data and other policy concerns support such a change. ***Further, the Department finds nothing in the legislative or regulatory history that would support indexing or automatic increases.*** Although an automatic indexing mechanism has been adopted under some other statutes, Congress has not adopted indexing for the Fair Labor Standards Act. In

²⁷ 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1).

²⁸ 69 Fed. Reg. 22172.

²⁹ *Id.* at 22171.

1990, Congress modified the FLSA to exempt certain computer employees paid an hourly wage of at least 6½ times the minimum wage, but this standard lasted only until the next minimum wage increase six years later. In 1996, Congress froze the minimum hourly wage for the computer exemption at \$27.63 (6½ times the 1990 minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour). In addition, as noted above, *the Department has repeatedly rejected requests to mechanically rely on inflationary measures when setting the salary levels in the past because of concerns regarding the impact on lower wage geographic regions and industries. This reasoning applies equally when considering automatic increases to the salary levels. The Department believes that adopting such approaches in this rulemaking is both contrary to congressional intent and inappropriate.*³⁰

At no point since Congress authorized the Department to issue regulations delimiting the FLSA’s section 13(a)(1) exemption has Congress granted the Department the authority to index its salary test. Congress could have provided such authority if it desired the Department to have it; Congress has permitted indexing expressly in other statutes, including the Social Security Act (which preceded the passage of the FLSA and was amended to add indexing in 1975) and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Congress clearly knows how to expressly authorize indexing when that is what it wants, including in the labor context.³¹ Yet Congress, despite full knowledge of the fact that the Department has increased the salary level required for exemption on an irregular schedule, has never amended the FLSA to permit the Department to index the salary level.

The Proposed Rule cannot avoid the plain fact that neither 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1) specifically or the FLSA generally contain language explicitly or implicitly suggesting that the Department is empowered to automatically update the salary threshold. Undeterred, the Department relies only upon the purported “broad authority” of the Secretary,³² and appears to take the position that Congress has implicitly left a “gap”³³ for DOL to fill. Based solely upon this attenuated reasoning, the Department concludes that it may set adjustments to the salary threshold on autopilot because Congress has failed to expressly *prohibit* them from doing so. This puts it exactly backwards. Courts “do not merely presume that a power is delegated if Congress does not

³⁰ *Id.* at 22171-72 (emphases added).

³¹ *See, e.g.*, 29 U.S.C. § 1083(c)(7)(D)(vii) (indexing amount of excess employee compensation related to minimum funding standards for single-employer defined benefit pension plans); *cf.* 16 U.S.C. § 497c(b)(3) (indexing ski area permit rental charges); 43 U.S.C. § 1337(a)(3)(C)(vii) (indexing oil and gas leases).

³² 88 Fed. Reg. 62178.

³³ *Id.* This interpretation wholly ignores the fact that Congress has not indexed the minimum wage, 29 U.S.C. § 206, the hourly wage for computer employees, 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(17), or the annual compensation for “nonprofit parents,” 29 U.S.C. § 213(b)(24). Therefore, far from leaving a “gap” for the Department to fill, the absence of express statutory language authorizing indexing in section 213(a)(1), especially in light of other provisions elsewhere in the United States Code, firmly establishes that Congress never authorized indexing to evade the requirement to define and delimit the EAP exemption “from time to time by regulation.”

expressly withhold it, as then ‘agencies would enjoy virtually limitless hegemony, a result plainly out of keeping with *Chevron* and quite likely with the Constitution as well.’”³⁴

The Department cannot support its overbroad interpretation of the Secretary’s authority “merely by demonstrating that ‘a statute does not expressly *negate* the existence of a claimed administrative power (*i.e.*, when the statute is not written in ‘thou shalt not’ terms).”³⁵ Surely, “Congress could not have intended to delegate a decision of such economic and political significance to an agency in so cryptic a fashion.”³⁶ The Department’s attempt to evade future rulemaking requirements by automatically indexing future overtime increases finds no support in the FLSA. This alone should doom the effort.

B. Automatic Indexing of the Salary Threshold Violates the Administrative Procedure Act’s Notice-and-Comment Requirements.

The FLSA likewise prohibits the Department from bypassing the regulatory processes required under the statute for updating the salary threshold—an independent, if not unrelated, reason the Proposed Rule’s automatic indexing provision is unlawful.

With certain exceptions that are not relevant here, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) mandates that agency rules having the force and effect of law must go through the notice and comment process.³⁷ The “notice-and-comment provisions of the APA enable the agency promulgating a rule to educate itself before establishing rules and procedures which have a substantial impact on those regulated.”³⁸ The Proposed Rule’s indexing provision fails to comply with requirements of the APA that are expressly incorporated in 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1) of the FLSA. Under that provision, the only power granted to the Secretary by Congress is the authority to define and delimit the exemption “by regulations” promulgated expressly “*subject to* subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 [the rulemaking requirements imposed by the APA]” (emphasis added).³⁹

The Proposed Rule’s indexing provision will force the salary level test to automatically adjust every three years, thus evading notice and comment on the change and other APA requirements explicitly required by the text of the FLSA. The only support for this proposition comes in the Department’s summary conclusion that since it has only sporadically updated the EAP threshold in the past, an automatic update would be a more “viable and efficient” means of increasing the salary threshold going forward. But the APA’s notice and comment provisions must be followed regardless of whether an agency finds them inconvenient.⁴⁰ Nor can the Department

³⁴ *Contender Farms L.L.P. v. U.S. Dep’t of Agriculture*, 779 F.3d 258, 269 (5th Cir. 2015)(quoting *Texas v. U.S. Department of the Interior*, 497 F.3d at 502); accord *La. Pub. Serv. Comm’n v. FCC*, 476 U.S. 355, 374 (1986) (“[A]n agency literally has no power to act ... unless and until Congress confers power upon it”).

³⁵ *Id.* (quoting *Ry. Labor Execs.’ Ass’n v. Nat’l Mediation Bd.*, 29 F.3d 655, 671 (D.C. Cir. 1994) (en banc; emphasis in the original)).

³⁶ *FDA v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.*, 529 U.S. 120, 160 (2000).

³⁷ See 5 U.S.C. § 553(b), (c).

³⁸ *Global Van Lines, Inc. v. ICC*, 714 F.2d 1290, 1299 n.9 (5th Cir. 1983).

³⁹ 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1).

⁴⁰ See *U.S. Steel Corp. v. EPA*, 595 F.2d 207, 214 (5th Cir. 1979) (discussing 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(B)).

avoid its APA obligations simply because they take time and resources; an agency cannot “exercise its authority ‘in a manner that is inconsistent with the administrative structure that Congress has enacted into law’” no matter how difficult the issue it seeks to address.⁴¹

The DOL cannot lawfully put the salary level test on autopilot and effectively immunize itself from the procedural obligations of the APA. Indeed, in prior rulemaking efforts, the DOL took a position consistent with the APA that changes to the salary level test should be data dependent. “The salary levels should be adjusted when wage survey data and other policy concerns support such a change.”⁴² Now, the salary level will mechanically adjust every three years without any rulemaking under the APA, without examination of the necessity or justification for an increase, and without any input from the public, the regulated community, or any other affected parties.

Any increase in the salary threshold must be based upon the comments submitted and the actual facts and information existent at the time of the increase, and the importance of notice-and-comment on those adjustments should not be understated. In 2004, the comment process resulted in increases to both the proposed standard salary level and the proposed HCE salary level and in 2016 the comment process resulted in decreases to the standard salary level and the HCE salary level. The Department is not omniscient on these issues, and automatic increases to the salary level are inconsistent with both its statutory authority and with its long-held understanding of the salary level’s purpose of serving a gatekeeper function. Finally, adjusting the salary level ignores utterly the importance of the duties test in determining the metes and bounds of the EAP exemption: put simply, how can it be the case that an employee is “clearly exempt” on December 31 and “clearly non-exempt” on January 1 of the following year because of the rate of inflation or some other indexing calculation? A gate need not be replaced on an annual basis to ensure that it functions properly; only when it approaches the end of its usefulness does it need to be “fixed.”

Current regulatory processes also require the Department to follow the Regulatory Flexibility Act and to undertake a detailed economic and cost analysis of any proposed update. An automatic update mechanism would allow the Department to announce a new salary level on a predetermined schedule in the *Federal Register* without notice-and-comment, without a Regulatory Flexibility Act analysis, and without any of the other regulatory requirements established by various Executive Orders. Each of those regulatory requirements is intended to force the agency to consider the consequences of its proposed actions and to ensure that the regulatory actions it takes are carefully crafted and well-supported before being implemented.

Where, as here, an agency has reversed longstanding regulatory policy, the Supreme Court has made clear that the agency is required to acknowledge, explain and justify its reversal, and such explanation must take into account the strong reliance interests of the regulated community concerning the original regulation.⁴³ With respect to its automatic indexing provision, the Proposed

⁴¹ See *Brown & Williamson*, 529 U. S. at 125 (internal citations omitted)

⁴² 69 Fed. Reg. 22171.

⁴³ See *Encino Motorcars, LLC v. Navarro*, 136 S. Ct. 2117 (2016) (vacating DOL’s reversal of policy with regard to the “service advisors” exemption from the FLSA’s overtime requirements); see also *Util. Air Reg. Grp. v. EPA*, 134

Rule does not even attempt such a justification. For these reasons, the FLSA's requirement that salary changes be subject to APA procedures separately and distinctly prohibits the Department from imposing the automatic indexing provision of the Proposed Rule.

C. The Proposed Rule Fails to Account for the Practical and Economic Impact of Triennial Automatic Increases.

The Department proposes to determine the new salary level every three years by indexing it to certain data sets collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); specifically, the Proposed Rule would increase the standard salary level for the white collar exemption to the 35th percentile of the pay distribution of full-time, non-hourly workers in the lowest-wage Census region of the country (currently, the South), and, thereafter, update that threshold every three years using that same formula using the most recent quarterly data from the BLS Current Population Survey.

As a practical matter, updating salary levels based solely on arcane BLS data (the utility and accuracy of which is, as discussed previously, highly questionable) will make it difficult, if not impossible, for employers and employees to determine with precision any updated salary level in advance of the Department's publishing it in the *Federal Register*. As a result, indexing the salary level will not make compliance with the exemption requirements easier; instead, indexing will create uncertainty and administrative and compliance difficulties, as employers likely will need to conduct frequent reconsiderations of the classification for employees whose status will potentially depend upon the responses to a survey conducted several years prior which are now reflected in a BLS data set. This serves only to increase costs on employers and takes dollars away from employee wages. More to the point, indexing with reference to a percentile of earnings will, by its very operation, dramatically increase the salary level in very short order, pushing it far beyond its "gatekeeper" level (and to a level already found to be unlawfully high). Finally, indexing fails wholly to account for costs associated with salary "compression" as salaries that are raised to maintain the exemption for some employees will exert direct pressure to raise wages for others.

1. Employers Will Incur Significant and Ongoing Costs to Continuously Reassess Exemptions, and Determine Whether to Increase Wages or Reclassify Employees.

As a threshold matter, automatically increasing the minimum salary level will create an unsustainable floor and ongoing instability and uncertainty in employers' carefully calibrated compensation strategies and budgeting models. Employers operate on varying fiscal calendars. Preparing for frequent increases presents challenges in terms of budgeting and implementation, and puts an undue burden upon employers who must in an extremely limited time period comply with state notice requirements, reprogram compensation systems, and conduct additional training, as well as conduct the necessary legal and compliance review to determine if reclassification is

S. Ct. 2427, 2446 (2014) ("[A]n agency may not rewrite clear statutory terms to suit its own sense of how the statute should operate.").

appropriate. Additionally, employers must contend not only with the costs of increased wage rates, but also must incur the additional expense of routine classification analysis, decision-making, and implementation of changes in response to each new salary level when it is announced.

The automatic escalation of the EAP exemption salary threshold will create a cycle of continuing uncertainty. After each new salary threshold is announced, employers will engage in an unavoidable last-minute rush to identify which employees will get a salary increase and remain exempt, and which employees will be reclassified to non-exempt status. In other words, the efforts of Year One implementation would have to be repeated triennially in perpetuity. These cost and time obligations are dramatically understated in the required economic analysis accompanying the Proposed Rule. The financial impact, however, is enormous, including not only the costs of increased salaries or potential overtime pay, but also employer's costs in conducting the classification analysis which often include outside consultants, the decision-making process, and implementation of any changes in response to the new salary level when it is reset. Beyond these financial impacts, as discussed elsewhere in these comments, transitioning employees from exempt to non-exempt status requires careful planning and implementation to avoid undermining employee morale.

Likewise, the Department underestimates the costs of the rulemaking with respect to compliance efforts. Regulatory familiarization, adjustment, and managerial costs are all dramatically understated. Contrary to the Department's suggestions, compliance with the proposed rule would not be as simple as reviewing the salary level and making a one-time decision. Due to the many, varied issues identified within these comments, the time and effort associated with complying with the proposed rule will be immense as employers determine which positions will remain exempt, which will be reclassified as non-exempt, and how the employer will implement the conversion to non-exempt status, including adjustments to time and attendance systems and associated administrative issues.

Finally, the Department fails to account for these costs on a recurring basis. As noted above, the same compliance review activities that take place in Year One will be repeated on a triennial basis, as different groups of employees increasingly fall below the newly-indexed salary minimum, and be subject to an ongoing cost/benefit analysis to determine whether their employer should increase their salary to maintain the exemption, reclassify them as non-exempt, or otherwise change the terms and conditions of their employment.

2. **Automatic Indexing Will Result in a Dramatic, Upward Spiral of the Salary Threshold as Employees Are Either Reclassified as Non-Exempt and/or Salaries Are Increased to Maintain Exempt Status.**

Should increases be tied to the 35th percentile, the minimum salary level will quickly skyrocket, entirely destabilizing Congressional intent that the salary should not be set at a level that excludes many employees who obviously meet the white-collar duties tests. As noted previously, by increasing the minimum salary level from \$35,568 to over \$60,000, employers will either have to either: (a) reclassify employees as non-exempt, meaning they will be excluded from

the BLS non-hourly data set; or (b) increase employee salaries to meet the new minimum salary requirement (thus raising the level of the target percentile upon which the base salary level is determined). If, as the Proposed Rule suggests, these increases are tied to a percentile of earnings, the net effect of these phenomena will be disproportionate increases in the salary threshold.

The purpose of the salary test, as stated by the Department in the Proposed Rule, is to “help[] differentiate between exempt and nonexempt employees”⁴⁴ by setting a salary level at an amount that is slightly lower than the dividing line between exempt and nonexempt employees. That is, the salary level is intended to be set at a level that is over-inclusive of potentially non-exempt employees. As explained above, the Department does not adequately establish why the 35th percentile meets these standards in the first instance. That notwithstanding, the Proposed Rule’s escalator provision, which permanently ties the salary level to the 35th percentile of full-time salaried workers, will only compound the Department’s error.

The relevant data for calculating the percentile to which the Proposed Rule ties the exemption consists of the total weekly earnings for all full-time, non-hourly paid employees, based on workers who respond to the survey. According to BLS, “total weekly earnings” includes overtime pay, commissions, and tips. Respondents are asked whether they are paid hourly; they are not asked whether they are paid a salary, earn commissions, or are paid another way. In other words, the data is based upon a worker’s response that he or she is not paid hourly and includes in the “salary” threshold elements of compensation that are not salary.

The overwhelming majority of affected employees, in the Department’s estimate, will be reclassified as non-exempt. Most of these employees will be converted to an hourly method of payment, although some will undoubtedly become “salaried, non-exempt” employees. Because the workers who will be converted to an hourly method of payment will no longer respond to the CPS Survey question as being paid “non-hourly,” they will drop out of that BLS data set. The effect of this exclusion from the data set is dramatic; as one economic analysis states:

*Using the same methodology for the approximately 12 million full-time, non-hourly employees in the South Census region, where the salary threshold is determined, there are an estimated 1.4 million affected workers who earn between \$684 and \$1,059 per week and are expected to pass the duties test. **If those workers are all reclassified to hourly employees, they will fall out of the distribution of workers that serve as the basis for the 35th percentile... The 35th percentile of the resulting distribution after workers are reclassified is \$1,154. For comparison, \$1,154 is the 40th percentile of the current distribution. Effectively, the Department’s automatic update mechanism would increase the salary threshold by approximately 9.1% to the current 40th percentile within three years even if there was not ANY wage growth.** If the recent inflation trend continues (13.6% over three years), the 9.1% increase due to the automatic update*

⁴⁴ 88 Fed. Reg. 62225.

methodology would cause the threshold to reach \$1,311 per week or about \$68,175 per year.⁴⁵

Put more simply, the number of workers who respond that they are not paid hourly will decrease as workers who fail the salary test in year one (and subsequent years) are reclassified as non-exempt. If the 35th percentile test is adopted, in the years following the proposal, the salary level required for exempt status likely will be so high as to effectively eliminate entirely the availability of the exemptions in low-wage regions and industries.

3. The Proposed Rule Fails to Adequately Account for the Expense of Salary Compression to Employers; Raising Employee Wages to Maintain the Exemption Creates Upward Pressure to Increase Salaries Across the Workforce.

Finally, the Proposed Rule fails to adequately consider the economic cost of avoiding salary compression for those employees who are already paid more than the proposed minimum salary level. Where employees below the proposed salary minimum have their salaries raised to meet the new minimum, employees above the new minimum will likewise need to have their salaries raised to account for the relative value of the work being performed.

Higher levels of education, skill, experience, responsibility, and seniority should (and currently do) correspond to increased compensation. Employers thus attempt to avoid actual or perceived disparity between job titles and comparative compensation. Employees with higher positions, more job responsibility, and better qualifications than others expect to be paid accordingly. If an employer fails to do so, the salary compression will negatively impact employee morale in the workplace.

Take for instance a group of employees who currently are below the proposed minimum salary level. Assuming that the employees currently earn \$900 per week and their supervisors earn \$1,200 per week, the decision to raise the employees' salary to \$1,160 per week to continue their exempt classification does not simply impact those employees. Their supervisors—although not legally required to be paid more to be treated as exempt—nevertheless will need to be paid more to maintain morale and avoid salary compression.

The increased costs to employers to avoid salary compression are not considered in the Department's economic analysis. Similarly, the Department fails to address the difficulty of addressing the salary compression issue, as well as its impact on the determination on whether to reclassify a position to non-exempt as a result of the increased minimum salary level. These are real administrative expenses. The decision on classification cannot be made in a vacuum; it must consider the impact on other positions from a salary compression standpoint. The Department's proposal, however, does not adequately account for any of these significant costs.

⁴⁵ See Stephen G. Bronars, Ph.D. & Deborah K. Foster, Ph.D., Edgeworth Economics, "Important Implications of DOL's Proposed Automatic Updating Mechanism" (Oct. 26, 2023), available at: <https://www.edgeworththeconomics.com/publication-6501> (last visited October 20, 2023).

For all these reasons, the PPWO opposes any indexing of the salary level. No methodology, identified by the Department or not, can overcome the Department's lack of authority to automatically increase the salary level in the manner proposed. Nor does any methodology cure the logistical and operational issues—and associated expense—that comes with an ongoing redefinition of exempt status. The Department should withdraw the proposal to index the minimum salary level.

* * *

The Proposed Rule is fundamentally flawed on numerous levels. It adopts a methodology for increasing the EAP salary threshold that is unsupported in law or fact. It raises the threshold almost immediately to a level beyond which it serves its purpose as intended by Congress, and which has been found to be unlawfully high. It compounds these errors by including an automatic escalator provision in contravention of the FLSA and the APA, which, setting aside that fatal flaw, will serve only to compound underlying errors in the Department's initial salary level determination. Finally, it fails to accurately reflect the costs imposed on employers for implementation and compliance with the rule, and the dramatically increased costs associated with a rapidly escalating threshold. For all these reasons, as discussed above, the Department should withdraw its proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

National Organizations

ACA International
AICC, The Independent Packaging Association
Air Conditioning Contractors of America
American Association of Advertising Agencies (4A's)
American Bakers Association
American Bankers Association
American Bus Association
American Car Rental Association
American Foundry Society
American Frozen Food Institute
American Hotel & Lodging Association
American Pipeline Contractors Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Society of Association Executives
American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA)
American Staffing Association
American Supply Association
American Trucking Associations
AmericanHort

Amusement & Music Operators Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Construction Industry Round Table
Consumer Technology Association
Electronic Transactions Association
Energy Marketers of America
FMI–The Food Industry Association
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International
HR Policy Association
IAAPA, The Global Association for the Attractions Industry
IHRSA–The Health & Fitness Association
Independent Electrical Contractors
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
International Bottled Water Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Franchise Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association
Irrigation Association
ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Job Creators Network
Manufactured Housing Institute
Manufacturers’ Agents Association for the Foodservice Industry (MAFSI)
MEMA, the Vehicle Suppliers Association
National Apartment Association
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of College Stores
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Association of Electrical Distributors
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Landscape Professionals
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents
National Association of Theatre Owners
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Automobile Dealers Association
National Beer Wholesalers Association

National Club Association
National Confectioners Association
National Cotton Ginners Association
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Demolition Association (NDA)
National Federation of Independent Business
National Funeral Directors Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grocers Association
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Marine Distributors Association
National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC)
National Newspaper Association
National Public Employer Labor Relations Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National RV Dealers Association (RVDA)
National Small Business Association (NSBA)
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Tooling and Machining Association
National Utility Contractors Association
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
NATSO, Representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops
Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association
PEI–Petroleum Equipment Institute
Portland Cement Association
Power & Communication Contractors Association
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
PRINTING United Alliance
Restaurant Law Center
Saturation Mailers Coalition
Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades
SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Textile Care Allied Trades Association
The Transportation Alliance
The US Chamber of Commerce
Tire Industry Association
TRSA – The Linen, Uniform and Facility Services Association
Workspace Solutions Association

State Organizations

Alaska Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Business & Industry Association of NH
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce
Idaho Chamber Alliance
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce
NC Chamber
Oregon Business and Industry
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Texas Association of Business
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association
Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
Wyoming Construction Coalition
Wyoming State Chamber

Local Organizations

Aiken Chamber (SC)
Anderson County Chamber of Commerce (TN)
Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce (OH)
Barrow County Chamber of Commerce (GA)
Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance (MI)
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce (ID)
Box Elder Chamber of Commerce (UT)
Brea Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Bristol Chamber of Commerce (TN)
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce (AZ)

Buellton Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Cambria Regional Chamber (PA)
Campbell County Chamber of Commerce (WY)
Canby Area Chamber of Commerce (OR)
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (VA)
Chamber of Catawba County (NC)
ChamberWest (UT)
ChamberRVA(VA)
Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce (TN)
Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce (WY)
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce (MS)
Cobb Chamber (GA)
Columbia Chamber of Commerce (SC)
Davis Chamber of Commerce (UT)
DeKalb Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce (WI)
Gateway Chambers Alliance (CA)
Glendale Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Grand Rapids Chamber (MI)
Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce (MT)
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce (SC)
Greater Lawrence Chamber, Inc. (IN)
Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. (MN)
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (FL)
Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce (MI)
Greater Omaha Chamber (NE)
Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Greater Phoenix Chamber (AZ)
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance (PA)
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce (SD)
Greenville Chamber of Commerce (SC)
Halifax County Chamber of Commerce (VA)
Harrisburg Regional Chamber (PA)
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce (MT)
Henderson Chamber of Commerce (NV)
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IL)
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce (NE)

Kingsport Chamber of Commerce (TN)
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce (TN)
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Lakeland Chamber (FL)
Lansing Regional Chamber (MI)
Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce (NV)
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce (NE)
Loudoun Chamber of Commerce (VA)
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance (VA)
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce (MN)
McLean County of Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Meridian Chamber of Commerce (ID)
Mobile Chamber of Commerce (AL)
Moore County Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Murray County Chamber of Commerce (GA)
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce (TN)
Newton Chamber of Commerce (GA)
North Tampa Bay Chamber (FL)
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce (SC)
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (ID)
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce (AL)
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Riverton Chamber of Commerce (WY)
Robins Regional Chamber (GA)
Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce (OR)
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce (OR)
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce (UT)
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Shoals Chamber of Commerce (AL)
Simpsonville Area Chamber of Commerce (SC)
South Tampa Chamber of Commerce (FL)
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce (OR)
Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce (OR)

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce (FL)
Tampa Bay Chamber (FL)
The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks (ND)
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Union County Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Upstate Chamber Coalition (SC)
Valley Industry & Commerce Association (CA)
Waukesha County Business Alliance (WI)
West Ventura County Business Alliance (CA)
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce (IN)
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce (NC)
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Yuma County Chamber of Commerce (CA)

Of counsel:

James A. Paretti, Jr.*
Littler Mendelson, P.C.
Workplace Policy Institute
815 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
jparetti@littler.com

*Not admitted in the District of Columbia; practice is limited to matters and proceedings before federal courts and agencies.

November 14, 2023

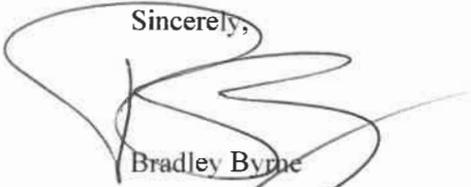
Mr. Doug Otto, PE
Vice President, Engineering
Alabama Port Authority
250 N. Water Street
Mobile, AL 36602

Dear Mr. Otto:

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber and its more than 1,600 members, representing 100,000 employees, I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Alabama Port Authority for funding under NOAA's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant Program. With support from this funding, the *Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site Project* will establish the first 100 acres of planned 1,200-acre beneficial use of dredged material site in upper Mobile Bay. This wetland will be constructed with beneficially used dredged material for the public berths of the Alabama Port Authority, ensuring that the valuable natural resources of our river sediments remain in the immediate ecosystem. This effort will begin to rebalance the currently accelerating conversion of coastal wetland habitats to open water habitats.

Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site Project was conceived by state and federal resource managers more than 15 years ago and seeks to address thousands of acres of historical impacts to the wetlands of the Upper Bay while reducing the institutionalized disposal of dredged sediments outside of the Bay system. Wetland habitats are productive and important habitats of upper Mobile Bay and provide refugia for commercially and recreationally important fisheries species. The project is expected to have long-term beneficial ecological impacts as well as positive economic impacts for the region.

The Alabama Port Authority is dedicated to maintaining this investment with beneficially used material and good dredged material sustainability management planning. This, in turn, will reduce the cost of dredged material management and allow the material to be used for wetland creation. If I may be of further assistance or can provide you with any additional information, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Bradley Byrne
President and CEO

November 28, 2023

Mr. John Driscoll
Alabama Port Authority
250 North Water Street
Mobile, AL 36603

RE: Alabama State Port Authority FY22 – FY23 EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Application; Title: ASPA Terminal Railway Locomotive Improvement Project; Funding Opportunity No. EPA-OAR-OTAQ-23-03

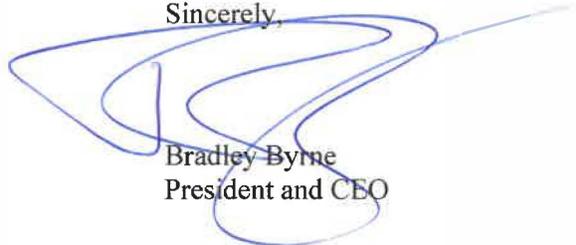
Dear Mr. Driscoll:

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber and its more than 1,600 members, representing 100,000 employees, I am writing to express our strong support for the Alabama State Port Authority's FY22-FY23 EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Application to upgrade two short-haul Tier II diesel-electric switching locomotives to Tier IV Final. Specifically, the project will upgrade two previously improved switching locomotives, TASD Locomotive 772 and TASD Locomotive 761, from Tier II to Tier IV Final Ultra Low Emitting Locomotives (ULEL). TASD 772 and TASD 761 are original EMD SW 1500 engines from 1977 and 1976, respectively. The locomotives were repowered by RJ Corman with Tandem Duetz 750 horsepower Tier II motors between 2014 and 2015.

The ASPA's mission is to provide the citizens of the State of Alabama and businesses located in and near Alabama with the means of transporting and receiving goods worldwide via the utilization of our deep-water Port. Routine Port operations require the use of a wide variety of diesel-powered vehicles, including diesel-powered locomotives used by our Terminal Railway (TASD). Contained in ASPA's strategic plan is the goal to enhance the environmental quality of life of the surrounding communities in which the Port operates. Therefore, diesel emissions and noise reduction projects are paramount to the ASPA as a conscientious community business member, and the Mobile Chamber fully supports their efforts to secure critical EPA funding assistance to repower two Tier II diesel-electric switching locomotives. With the EPA assistance funding, the ASPA will repower each locomotive with an EPA-certified Tier IV engine.

Thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of the State of Alabama. If I may be of further assistance or can provide you with any additional information, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Bradley Byrne
President and CEO

January 30, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of Safeguarding and Securing the Open Internet (WC Docket No. 23-320); Restoring Internet Freedom (WC Docket No. 17-108); Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers (WC Docket No. 17-287); Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization (WC Docket No. 11-42).

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The undersigned chambers of commerce representing business communities across the United States respectfully submit these comments to the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission" or "FCC") above-titled Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM").¹ The NPRM proposes to classify broadband under Title II of the Communications Act and impose a burdensome regulatory framework on the broadband marketplace. We express strong concern with the Commission's proposed Title II classification given the adverse impact on enhancing broadband access for our businesses and communities and because Title II classification is unlawful.

I. Access to Reliable, High-Speed Broadband Internet is Critical for Businesses and Communities Across the United States

Broadband internet access is crucial for enabling e-commerce, remote work, online education, American global competitiveness, and other important societal and economic objectives. While the private sector and governments have made significant strides to connect all Americans, some communities remain unserved. The business community strongly supports efforts to expand access to broadband including through reducing barriers to private sector investments and targeted government broadband investments, when appropriate, in unserved communities. The Commission's choice of regulatory framework for broadband is consequently critical to enable, or hinder, this objective.

II. The Record Underscores that Title II Classification is Unlawful

¹ Safeguarding and Securing the Open Internet, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 23-320, FCC-23-83 (Oct. 19, 2023), <https://tinyurl.com/y6hhry6y> ("NPRM").

Title II classification of broadband is unlawful for several reasons, echoed by numerous commenters.² One, the statutory text of the Communications Act, previous Commission actions, and U.S. Supreme Court precedent indicate that broadband should be considered an “information service” rather than a “telecommunications service” and thus remain under a Title I regulatory framework instead of Title II.³ Second, the Major Questions Doctrine prevents the Commission from classifying broadband under Title II because such a determination would have significant political and economic impacts and Congress has not clearly authorized utility-style regulation of broadband.⁴ Instead of pursuing an unlawful rulemaking, the Commission should focus on reducing barriers to broadband access.

III. The Record Emphasizes the Restoring Internet Freedom Order’s Approach Enabled Increased Competition, Significant Investment, and Lower Prices for Consumers

In 2017, the Commission adopted the Restoring Internet Freedom Order (“RIF Order”) which returned to a targeted, innovation-friendly approach for regulating the broadband marketplace.⁵ As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other commenters note, the targeted approach taken by RIF Order unlocked significant private sector broadband investment, increased competition between providers, and lowered prices, all benefiting consumers and businesses.⁶ These trends also demonstrate that the broadband marketplace is healthy, and that burdensome regulation is unnecessary.

Private sector broadband investment increased after the adoption of the RIF Order, reaching \$102.4 billion in capital expenditures in 2022.⁷ This occurred for both wireless and fiber infrastructure investments.⁸ As a result, Americans have more choices than ever before at faster speeds.⁹ Moreover, these choices are not just between providers but also between different types of broadband technologies, including cable, fiber, mobile wireless, fixed wireless, and satellite. Increased innovation and substantial private investments are paired with lower prices even in an era of persistent inflation.¹⁰ Broadband prices have decreased by 12% since 2017 across plans offering different internet speeds and across broadband technologies.¹¹

² NCTA Comments at 10-46; USTelecom Comments at 9-35; CTIA Comments at 46-78.

³ Chamber Comments at 40-48.

⁴ Chamber Comments at 49-61.

⁵ Restoring Internet Freedom, Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 311 (2018), <http://tinyurl.com/mt3a7bpj> (“RIF Order”).

⁶ See Comments of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, WC Docket No. 23-320, at 6 (filed Dec. 14, 2023) (“Chamber Comments”); Comments of NCTA – The Internet & Television Association, WC Docket Nos. 23-320, 17-108, 17-287, at 86-87 (Filed Dec. 14, 2023) (“NCTA Comments”); Comments of CTIA, WC Docket No. 23-320, at 13-14 (filed Dec. 14, 2023); Comments of USTelecom, WC Docket Nos. 23,320, 17-108, 17-287, 11-42, at 1-2 (filed Dec. 14, 2023) (“USTelecom Comments”).

⁷ 2022 Broadband Capex Report, USTelecom (Sept. 8, 2019), <http://tinyurl.com/3cxdjhf9>; Michael Mandel & Jordan Shapiro, Investment Heroes 2023, Progressive Policy Institute, at P7 (Oct. 2023), <http://tinyurl.com/6jp6f9f8>.

⁸ Chamber Comments at 8-9.

⁹ NCTA Comments at 89-90; Chamber Comments at 11.

¹⁰ NCTA Comments at 91; USTelecom Comments at 38-39.

¹¹ Chamber Comments at 12.

In sum, consumers and the American public clearly benefit from the present regulatory framework.

IV. The Record Demonstrates that Title II Classification Would Hinder Investment and the Economy

Despite the evident success of the present regulatory framework, the NPRM would take the broadband industry in the opposite direction. The Commission’s previous attempt in 2015 to impose a Title II framework slowed broadband deployment and access through decreased private sector capital expenditures and an increased regulatory burden on broadband providers.¹² A recent study by the Phoenix Center underscores the concrete consequences of Title II classification, finding a \$81 billion investment decline, a 2.9% decrease in information sector employment, and a \$145 billion annual reduction in Gross Domestic Product.¹³

We are particularly concerned that Title II reclassification would negatively affect the broadband access objectives outlined by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act’s primary broadband initiative, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (“BEAD”) program. Every eligible state and territory is collaborating with the Department of Commerce on the BEAD program with the Department making significant progress to date.¹⁴ Considering private sector investment is key to ensuring the success of the program, the Commission should not promulgate regulations that risk limiting broadband investment.

These quantifiable costs arising from the 2015 attempt to impose Title II classification on broadband demonstrates that the NPRM requires a robust cost-benefit analysis to understand the impacts on investment and the economy.

V. Conclusion

Access to high-speed broadband internet is essential for American business and the communities we serve. We urge the Commission to reverse course and maintain the present regulatory framework for broadband.

Sincerely,

National

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

¹² Chamber Comments at 16-18.

¹³ George S. Ford, Investment in the Virtuous Circle: Theory and Empirics, Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal & Economic Public Policy Studies, at 22 (December 2023), <http://tinyurl.com/yeuzsh8w>.

¹⁴ BEAD Initial Proposal Progress Dashboard, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce (accessed Jan. 8, 2024), <https://www.internetforall.gov/bead-initial-proposal-progress-dashboard>.

Alabama

The Business Council of Alabama
Mobile Chamber
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Chandler Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

Camden Regional Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Bay Chamber

Georgia

Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Metro Atlanta Chamber

Iowa

Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Fort Madison Partners
Mason City Chamber of Commerce
Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Union County KY Chamber of Commerce

Maine

Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance

Michigan

Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Grand Rapids Chamber
Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce
Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Chamber & Visitors Bureau
Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber

Minnesota

Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Delano Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Mankato Growth
Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Minneapolis Regional Chamber
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council - the State Chamber
Area Development Partnership - Greater Hattiesburg, MS

Missouri

Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Kennett Chamber of Commerce
St. Charles Regional Chamber

Nebraska

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

North Dakota

Greater North Dakota Chamber
The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks
FMWF Chamber of Commerce

Ohio

Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Kingsport Chamber

Texas

Fort Bend Chamber
Grapevine Chamber of Commerce
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission
Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce
West Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce

April 22, 2024

Hon. Michael S. Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW; 1101-A
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: CARB's Clean Air Act Authorization Request [EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0574]

Dear Administrator Regan:

Granting the above-referenced authorization request submitted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) could disrupt the United States supply chain, hurt the economy – including through inflation, drive some short-line railroads out of business, and divert millions of tons of freight from rail to more carbon-intensive transportation options.

Please reject this authorization request, which would permit CARB to circumvent federal laws and impose unfeasible mandates requiring railroads across the United States to purchase zero-emission locomotives that are not yet commercially viable while also artificially limiting the useful life of their locomotive fleets. The draconian financial and operational burdens CARB would impose include requiring railroads to deposit as much as \$800 million per year per railroad into “spending accounts” that could only be used to purchase and test currently nonexistent zero-emission technology and equipment. CARB would also limit the useful life of more than 25,000 locomotives by barring any locomotive that is 23 or more years past its original manufacture date from operating in California. Such policy disregards the fact that locomotives are long-term and capital-intensive investments that traverse North America on the interconnected rail network. Small railroads in particular cannot simply replace these locomotives.

Critical for the undersigned organizations that span the nation, railroads operate on an interconnected continent-wide network. Implementation of CARB's extreme requirements would impact rail operations and rail service throughout North America, as railroads do not operate state-specific fleets. Moreover, granting the waiver would open the floodgates to the expansion of these disruptive mandates given that Section 209(e) of the Clean Air Act permits other states to adopt the CARB regulation once authorized by EPA. Creating a patchwork of state laws governing rail operations would severely undermine the interconnectivity of the freight rail network and run afoul of federal laws created with preserving that network in mind. Freight rail is highly fuel-efficient, and rail currently carries about 40 percent of U.S. long-distance freight while contributing just 1.7 percent of transportation-related emissions of greenhouse gases. It is difficult to see how the CARB regulation, which would undermine freight rail's efficiencies and could divert rail freight to highways, is in the national interest. In fact, the adoption of the CARB regulation could lead to more carbon emissions over time. Moreover, CARB has acknowledged that because compliance costs are so high, some short-line railroads would likely be forced to cease operating, cutting some rural communities off from vital rail service entirely.



Collectively, our organizations represent virtually every corner of the nation and every sector of the economy. We urge you to reject CARB's authorization request. Granting it would undermine vital freight rail service and threaten jobs and quality of life in all our communities.

Best regards,

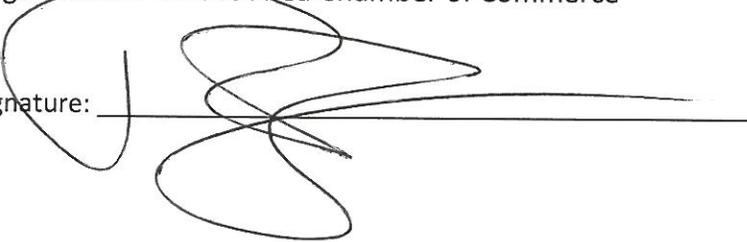
Bradley Byrne
President and CEO

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

I authorize GoRail to include my organization on this group letter, which will be delivered to the EPA while copying members of the United States Congress.

Name: Bradley Byrne Title: President/CEO

Organization: Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

Signature:  Date: 9/10/24



May 21, 2024

To the Members of the United States House of Representatives:

The undersigned chambers of commerce strongly support H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act of 2024, and urge the House to consider this important legislation.

This bipartisan bill was introduced by Representatives Brad Finstad, Nathaniel Moran, and Yadira Caraveo and is co-sponsored by Representatives Mike Gallagher, Harriett Hageman, Maria Salazar, David Valadao, and Carol Miller. H.R. 7198 was reported by the Judiciary Committee in March and would be a major step forward for small businesses that are harmed by excessive federal regulations.

American small business owners are job creators and innovators. While their contributions to their communities and to the American economy are enormous, they bear an unreasonably heavy burden when it comes to regulatory costs. The annual cost of complying with federal regulations has risen by \$465 billion since 2012 and now totals over \$3 trillion (12% of U.S. GDP). The per employee cost of \$12,800 for small businesses is 20% greater than the cost per employee at their larger competitors.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act - passed 44-years ago - was intended to correct the lopsided burden on small business and require that regulators tailor rules to meet government objectives while minimizing the burden on small businesses. Unfortunately, federal agencies too often exploit loopholes in the law to hide costs imposed on Main Street businesses and to ignore their feedback.

The Prove It Act of 2024 would close those loopholes and bring more transparency to the true costs of red tape on America's innovators, job creators, and community builders. The bill would also prevent agencies from ignoring small business input in their rush to finalize new federal regulations.

We urge expeditious House consideration of H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act.

Sincerely,

Alabama
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber
Enterprise Chamber of Commerce

Mobile Chamber
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of
Commerce

Alaska

Alaska Chamber
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Peoria Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Valley Chamber
Springerville-Eagar Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber
West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce
Yuma County Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

AR State Chamber/AIA
Holiday Island Chamber of Commerce
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce

California

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce
Brea Chamber of Commerce
California Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Colusa County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bakersfield Chamber
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce

Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
La Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce
Lodi District Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
North San Diego Business Chamber
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santee Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Tracy Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

Colorado

Vail Valley Partnership

Florida

Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce
St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
Visitor Information Center
The Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

Georgia

Barrow County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Cobb County Chamber of Commerce
Fayette County Chamber of Commerce
Habersham County Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce
Murray County Chamber of Commerce
Newton Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Kapolei Chamber of Commerce
Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce

Idaho

Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Chamber630
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of
Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
RiverBend Growth Association
Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Springfield Chamber of
Commerce
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

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

Iowa

Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Association of Business and Industry

Kansas

Goddard Chamber of Commerce
Greater Topeka Chamber
Parsons Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Greater Louisville, Inc.
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Greenwood Chamber of Commerce
St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce

West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce

Maine

Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber of
Commerce

Maryland

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

Massachusetts

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
Peabody Area Chamber of Commerce
United Regional Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Barry County Chamber and Economic
Development Alliance
Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Grand Rapids Chamber
Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce
North Oakland Regional Chambers
Association
Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of
Commerce
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce
FORWARD Worthington
Glenwood Lakes Area Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Mankato Growth
Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
I-94 West Chamber of Commerce
Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce

Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce
SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce
St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
Tracy Area Chamber
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Windom Area Chamber of Commerce
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Hancock County Chamber of Commerce

Montana

Billings Chamber of Commerce
Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Inc.
Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
North Platte Area Chamber & Development Corporation
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Nevada

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Vegas Chamber
White Pine Chamber of Commerce

New Hampshire

Business & Industry Association New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey

New York

Capital Region Chamber of Commerce
North Country Chamber of Commerce
Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce
The Business Council of NYS, Inc.

North Carolina

Alamance Chamber of Commerce
Charlotte Regional Business Alliance
Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce
Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce
Moore County Chamber of commerce
NC Chamber
The Caldwell Chamber

North Dakota

Greater North Dakota Chamber
The Chamber Grand Forks - East Grand Forks
Williston Area Chamber of Commerce

Ohio

Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Huber Heights Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
Zanesville-Muskingum County Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oregon

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Bend Chamber of Commerce
Canby Area Chamber of Commerce
Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake County Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry
Oregon State Chamber of Commerce
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Alle Kiski Strong Chamber
Blair County Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC
Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County Chamber of Commerce
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce
Venango Area Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce
York County Economic Alliance

Rhode Island

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Tennessee

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Texas

Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce
Cuero Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture & Visitors Center

Denison Area Chamber of Commerce
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Waco Chamber
Kaufman Chamber of Commerce
Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce
Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission
Rowlett Chamber of Commerce
Texas Association of Business
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Cedar City Chamber of Commerce
ChamberWest Chamber of Commerce
Davis Chamber of Commerce
Salt Lake Chamber
South Valley Chamber of Commerce
Utah Pacific Islander Chamber

Virginia

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Chamber
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Washington

Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Covington Chamber of Commerce
Economic Alliance Snohomish County
Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce
Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce
Thurston County Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Beaver Dam Area Chamber of Commerce
Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
Rice Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce
Lander Chamber of Commerce

Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce

June 12, 2024

Dr. Lael Brainard
Director
National Economic Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Mr. Jake Sullivan
National Security Advisor
National Security Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Brainard and Advisor Sullivan:

The undersigned state and local chambers of commerce are very concerned with the Administration's recent decision to withdraw support for strong, longstanding international digital trade rules.

Digital trade supports more than three million American jobs (see [details by state and congressional district](#)). Companies in diverse fields including services, manufacturing, arts and entertainment, and agri-business increasingly rely on the digital economy to find customers, sell goods and services, manage operations, coordinate research and development, strengthen compliance, and ensure secure payments.

Over the years, the U.S. and its allies have negotiated agreements—including the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)—to support mutually beneficial cross-border data flows and to defend against digital protectionism. These agreements protect American companies from unfair treatment.

The U.S. Trade Representative late last year reversed longstanding U.S. support for digital trade rules, which risks undermining U.S. leadership and threatens the global competitiveness of many American businesses.

We urge the Administration to reverse course and to reaffirm support the strong digital trade rules that support American businesses.

Sincerely,

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Alabama

Mobile Chamber of Commerce
Shoals Chamber of Commerce

Alaska

Alaska Chamber

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber
West Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance

Arkansas

Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce

California

Brea Chamber of Commerce
Buellton Chamber of Commerce
California Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Colusa County Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Hueneme Chamber of Commerce
Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Pomona Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance

Colorado

Vail Valley Partnership

Delaware

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Associated Industries of Florida
Florida Chamber of Commerce
The Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Georgia

Habersham County Chamber of Commerce
Newnan-Coweta Chamber
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
White County Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Illinois

Chamber630
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Main Street
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce
Perry County Chamber of Commerce

Kansas

Greater Topeka Partnership
Kansas Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington
Greater Louisville, Inc.
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Shreveport Chamber

Maine

Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance
Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Massachusetts

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce
Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Detroit Regional Chamber
Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council
Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce

Missouri

Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Montana

Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

Nevada

Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Vegas Chamber
White Pine Chamber of Commerce

New Hampshire

Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce

New Jersey

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

New York

Orange County Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce
Caldwell Chamber of Commerce
Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce
NC Chamber

North Dakota

The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks

Ohio

Streetsboro Area Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oregon

Lake County Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce
The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce
Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry
Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce
Harrisburg Regional Chamber
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
Tyrone Area Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island

East Bay Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce
Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Kingsport Chamber of Commerce
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Texas

Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Baytown Chamber of Commerce
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce

Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce
Frisco Chamber of Commerce
Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission
Texas Association of Business

Utah

South Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
South Valley Chamber of Commerce
The Salt Lake Chamber
Utah Pacific Islander Chamber of Commerce
Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

Washington

Association of Washington Business
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Economic Alliance Snohomish County
Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Forward Janesville
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce



October 16, 2024

Mobile City Council
Attn: Council Members
Mobile Government Plaza
205 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36602

Dear Honorable Members of the Mobile City Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the renewal of the Business Improvement District (BID). As a business in the downtown area, the Chamber has directly witnessed the positive impact that the Downtown Mobile District Management Corporation's oversight of the BID has made in enhancing our district's cleanliness, safety, and economic vitality. The Henry Aaron Loop has been transformed as a result of the > \$1 Billion invested downtown because of the foundational and transformational work of the BID.

Since its inception 20 years ago, the DDMC has provided vital services, including additional street cleaning, beautification and horticulture projects, and motorist and hospitality services. The presence of their security and hospitality ambassadors has greatly contributed to the overall vitality and attractiveness of downtown Mobile, making it a more welcoming environment for visitors, residents, and businesses alike.

Moreover, the DDMC has played a crucial role in the economic development of the area by advocating on behalf of local businesses, attracting new investment, and organizing events that have driven foot traffic to our stores and restaurants. As a result, property values have increased, and the economic outlook remains bright.

The Chamber believes that renewing the BID will allow the DDMC to continue its essential work of fostering a vibrant, safe, and economically sustainable downtown. I urgently ask you to vote in favor of renewing the BID on November 12, 2024.

I look forward to witnessing the continued growth of downtown under the guidance of the DDMC.

Best regards,



Bradley Byrne
President and CEO

November 12, 2024

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

The undersigned coalition of state and local chambers of commerce urge Congress to expeditiously pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill during the upcoming Congressional work period to replenish funding for disaster relief programs that have been or are at threat of being exhausted as result of recent natural disasters, including Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Additional funding is necessary to both help already devastated communities and ensure that there are adequate resources to respond to future droughts, hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, and other severe weather.

We also urge you to take the opportunity to complete work on bipartisan proposals to expand predisaster mitigation and resilience projects. These efforts not only help communities prepare for natural disasters, they reduce after disaster costs, including for federal taxpayers.

Emergency Supplemental Funding

Specifically, we urge the Congress to approve immediate additional funding for:

- The Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), which are a critical lifeline for small businesses, non-profits, and homeowners as they seek to rebuild after a natural disaster.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery and assistance programs, which help individuals, families, and local governments in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster.
- The Department of Transportation's emergency relief program, which assists with repairing and replacing critical national assets and lifeline infrastructure impacted by unforeseen disasters. These roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure projects are vital to local economies.

Bipartisan Predisaster Policy Solutions

The following predisaster mitigation policies [and others](#), included in bipartisan legislation already advancing through regular order offer a solid downpayment that will help bolster both current and future federal resilience capabilities in a smart and efficient manner:

- H.R. 6093, the Weather Act, H.R. 7070, the Wildfire Response Improvement Act, H.R. 7671, the Disaster Management Cost Modernization Act, and H.R.

8790, the Fix our Forests Act, and for additional funding and predisaster authorities for comprehensive programs, including CDBG-DR and small business loans.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, together with the Chamber Foundation and Allstate recently released the [Preparedness Payoff](#), a report which states that for every \$1 invested in predisaster mitigation and resilience projects and measures, there are \$13 in overall savings. This means that planning ahead and adapting infrastructure to anticipated disaster risks (e.g., rerouting, hardening infrastructure, and nature-based solutions) can decrease losses due to disasters and reduce the impact on the economy, allowing communities to recover more quickly.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with Congress to help communities recover from recent disaster and ensure that the policies and support are in place to prepare for future disasters.

Sincerely,

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Alabama

Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce
Mobile Chamber
Opelika Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance

Arkansas

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

California

Brea Chamber of Commerce
California Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of California Chambers Orange County
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Greater Bakersfield Chamber
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
North San Diego Business Chamber
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce & Civic Association
Porterville Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
Vista Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

Colorado

Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Colorado Chamber of Commerce
Vail Valley Partnership

Connecticut

CBIA

Florida

Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce
Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Manatee Chamber of Commerce
Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce
South Tampa Chamber of Commerce
St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce

Georgia

Barrow County Chamber of Commerce
Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce
Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce
Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce
Darien-McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce
Fayette County Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce
Greater Vidalia Chamber
Habersham County Chamber of Commerce
Hazlehurst-Jeff Davis County Chamber of Commerce
Henry County Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce
Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
Metro Atlanta Chamber
Newton Chamber of Commerce
Paulding Chamber of Commerce
Roberta-Crawford Chamber of Commerce

Rome Floyd Chamber of Commerce
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Kapolei Chamber of Commerce
Kaua'i Chamber

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce
Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Main Street
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
RiverBend Growth Association
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Crossroads Chamber
Fulton County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber Executives Association
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce
OneZone Chamber

Iowa

Waverly Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Committee of 100 for Economic Development
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business & Industry
One Acadiana
St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Harford County Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Massachusetts

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Detroit Regional Chamber
Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Midland Business Alliance

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council

Missouri

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce

Montana

Billings Chamber of Commerce
Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Nevada

Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Vegas Chamber

New Hampshire

Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire

New Jersey

Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

New York

North Country Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina

Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce
Anson County Chamber of Commerce
Apex Chamber of Commerce
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
Avery County Chamber of Commerce
Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce
Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce
Boone Area Chamber of Commerce
Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce
Caldwell Chamber of Commerce
Charlotte Regional Business Alliance
Chatham Chamber of Commerce
Clayton Chamber of Commerce
Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce
Four Oaks Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Greater Winston Salem, Inc.
Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce

Highlands Chamber of Commerce
Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
Madison County Chamber of Commerce
Matthews Chamber of Commerce
McDowell Chamber of Commerce
Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce
Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce
Moore County Chamber
Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce
Randleman Chamber of Commerce
Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce
Rowan County Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro
The Chamber of Catawba County
Triangle East Chamber of Commerce
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

North Dakota

The Chamber - Grand Forks / East Grand Forks

Ohio

Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce
Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Huber Heights Chamber of Commerce
Marion Area Chamber of Commerce
Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce
Streetsboro Area Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
Norman Chamber of Commerce
State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Canby Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
Lake County Chamber of Commerce
McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry
Portland Metro Chamber
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce
Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Allegheny Conference on Community Development
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Harrisburg Regional Chamber
Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County Chamber of Commerce
South West Regional Chamber of Commerce
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Aiken Chamber of Commerce
Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce
Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce
Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
Greater Mauldin Chamber of Commerce
Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce

Greenville Chamber of Commerce
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Upstate Chamber Coalition

Tennessee

Blount County Chamber of Commerce
Bristol Chamber of Commerce
Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce
Kingsport Chamber
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Texas

Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Brazosport Area Chamber of Commerce
Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership
Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission

Utah

Salt Lake Chamber
South Valley Chamber of Commerce
St. George Area Chamber of Commerce

Vermont

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce
Front Royal-Warren County Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Chamber
Highland County Chamber of Commerce
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Peninsula Chamber

Washington

Association of Washington Business
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Coupeville Chamber of Commerce
Covington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Beaver Dam Area Chamber of Commerce
Forward Janesville
Greater Green Bay Chamber
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce
Casper Area Chamber of Commerce
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce

No. 24-3868

**In the United States Court of Appeals
for the Sixth Circuit**

DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs-Appellants,

v.

XAVIER BECERRA, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS
SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES, ET AL.,

Defendants-Appellees.

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division
(No. 3:23-cv-00156) (The Hon. Michael J. Newman)

**BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL CHAMBERS
SUPPORTING APPELLANTS**

JEFFREY B. WALL
HUTCHINSON C. FANN
WILLIAM E. MCCARTER
SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP
1700 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 956-7500

Counsel for Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Amici make the following disclosures under Sixth Circuit Rule 26.1:

1. Are amici subsidiaries or affiliates of a publicly owned corporation?

No. The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and other amici state and local chambers are not subsidiaries or affiliates of any other corporation but are nonprofit trade groups that have no shares of securities that are publicly traded.

2. Is there a publicly owned corporation, not a party to the appeal or an amicus, that has a financial interest in the outcome?

None known.

/s/ Jeffrey B. Wall

Jeffrey B. Wall

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INTEREST OF THE AMICI CURIAE

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is the premier business association in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, representing 3,800 member businesses from family-owned shops to Fortune 500 companies, who employ more than half of the Commonwealth’s workforce. The Kentucky Chamber, through its partnership with more than 80 local chambers across the Commonwealth and formidable grassroots network, serves as a champion for business-friendly policies that will benefit all Kentuckians. The Kentucky Chamber also provides its members with resources, advocacy, and training to enhance business operations.

The Kentucky Chamber views litigation as an important way it can represent its members’ legislative and regulatory interests. The questions at issue in this appeal—the limits of associational standing—are thus of great importance to the Kentucky Chamber.

The appendix lists 148 additional state and local chambers that join this brief. Each is an association that represents the business community in a particular geographic area, but that geographic focus does not limit the association’s ability to advocate for the interests of members who may be headquartered elsewhere or to advocate for policies that will be generally

beneficial to the business community or economic climate. National policies can have real importance to state and local chambers, which have a clear interest in being able to challenge such policies.*

* No party's counsel authored this brief in whole or in part, and no one other than amici contributed money intended to fund preparing or submitting the brief. The parties have consented to the filing of this brief. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 29(a)(2) and (4)(E).

INTRODUCTION

In 2022, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act. That statute represents a broad assertion of governmental power. Among other things, the statute delegates power to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate the prices for certain prescription drugs with select drug manufacturers. 42 U.S.C. § 1320f(a). A manufacturer is on the hook for steep monetary penalties if the company fails to reach an agreement with the Secretary. This is true even if the Secretary is holding out for a significant discount.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce—joined by the Ohio, Michigan, and United States Chambers of Commerce—filed suit. The Dayton Chamber represents pharmaceutical manufacturers directly subject to this price-control regime. But the Dayton Chamber’s suit could not even get off the ground because the district court concluded that the Dayton Chamber lacked associational standing. In the court’s view, this lawsuit is not “germane” to the Dayton Chamber’s mission. That is a puzzling result. Courts have repeatedly acknowledged that the “[g]ermaneness requirement is ‘undemanding’ and requires ‘mere pertinence’ between the litigation at issue and the organization’s purpose.” *Ass’n of Am. Physicians & Surgeons, Inc. v.*

Tex. Med. Bd., 627 F.3d 547, 550 n.2 (5th Cir. 2010) (quoting *Bldg. & Const. Trades Council of Buffalo, N.Y. & Vicinity v. Downtown Dev., Inc.*, 448 F.3d 138, 148 (2d Cir. 2006)).

The Dayton Chamber clears that low bar for at least two related reasons. First, some of its members are directly affected by the Drug Price Negotiation Program. Second, the mission of the Dayton Chamber is to “improve the region’s business climate . . . through public policy advocacy.” Dkt. 29-2, Kershner Decl. at PageID 171 ¶4. The Program harms “the region’s business climate” by adversely affecting many businesses in the region. For either and both of those reasons, the Dayton Chamber has standing to pass through the courthouse doors. The district court erred by fashioning a physical-footprint requirement that is at odds with binding precedent and that threatens the ability of regional organizational plaintiffs to effectively represent members who are headquartered out of state and who may join multiple organizations to advance their local and national interests. This Court should reverse the judgment below.

ARGUMENT

I. THE DECISION BELOW IS WRONG.

The doctrine of associational or representational standing allows a membership association to sue on behalf of its members when “(a) its members would otherwise have standing to sue in their own right; (b) the interests it seeks to protect are germane to the organization’s purpose; and (c) neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of individual members in the lawsuit.” *Hunt v. Wash. State Apple Advert. Comm’n*, 432 U.S. 333, 343 (1977). The second prong of that test is not demanding and the Dayton Chamber satisfies it. The district court concluded otherwise because it misunderstood how the germaneness requirement works and took too narrow a view of the Dayton Chamber’s purpose and the interests that the Dayton Chamber may protect in litigation.

A. The District Court Erred In Holding That The Dayton Chamber Does Not Meet The Germaneness Requirement.

1. In *United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 751 v. Brown Group, Inc.*, the Supreme Court explained that the germaneness requirement is designed to ensure “that the association’s litigators will themselves have a stake in the resolution of the dispute, and thus be in a position to serve as the defendant’s natural adversary.” 517 U.S. 544, 555-556

(1996). Likewise, this Court has recognized that the germaneness requirement is keyed to ensuring simply that the plaintiff will prosecute its case with sufficient “adversarial vigor” to satisfy Article III’s case-or-controversy requirement. *Ass’n of Am. Physicians & Surgeons v. FDA*, 13 F.4th 531, 542 (6th Cir. 2021).

Lower courts have understood the germaneness requirement as an “undemanding” standard that is satisfied when there is “mere pertinence” between the litigation at issue and the organization’s purpose. *Nat’l Lime Ass’n v. EPA*, 233 F.3d 625, 636 (D.C. Cir. 2000); see *Presidio Golf Club v. Nat’l Park Serv.*, 155 F.3d 1153, 1159 (9th Cir. 1998) (same); *Bldg. & Const. Trades Council of Buffalo, N.Y. & Vicinity v. Downtown Dev., Inc.*, 448 F.3d 138, 148 (2d Cir. 2006) (same). In *Humane Society of the United States v. Hodel*, the D.C. Circuit concluded that germaneness is a “modest but sensible” requirement that screens out only cases where there would otherwise be a “wholesale mismatch between litigation topics and organizational expertise” or where “association leaders [are] abusing their offices.” 840 F.2d 45, 57-58 (D.C. Cir. 1988). The Second Circuit has likewise emphasized the Court’s deliberate use of the adjective “germane” rather than another phrase such as

“at the core of” or “central to” that might call for a more stringent review. *Bldg. & Const.*, 448 F.3d at 148.

Because germaneness is not meant to be a stringent requirement, courts have found it satisfied by organizational plaintiffs in a wide variety of contexts. This Court has held, for example, that a shipping association can challenge permit requirements because it “promote[s] the interests of its shipowner and agent members in maritime transportation.” *Fednav, Ltd. v. Chester*, 547 F.3d 607, 615 (6th Cir. 2008). Comparable examples abound in sister circuits. The Second Circuit, for instance, has held that a labor union can enforce environmental laws that improve its members’ “working conditions,” *Bldg. & Const.*, 448 F.3d at 149, while the Fifth Circuit has held that a national medical association can sue a state medical board to protect doctors from “governmental abuse,” *Tex. Med. Bd.*, 627 F.3d at 550 n.2.

The common lesson of these cases is that an organization has associational standing to sue when its suit plausibly furthers the general interests that individual members sought to vindicate by joining the organization in the first instance. Because litigation is costly and resources are often scarce, it is unsurprising that associations typically file lawsuits only to further their missions. Thus, any question about associational standing

ordinarily centers on the other prongs of the *Hunt* test, not germaneness. Indeed, a leading treatise notes that “[t]he second element seldom presents a serious issue.” 8D Charles Alan Wright et al., *Federal Practice and Procedure* § 8345 (4th ed. 2024).

2. Here, the interests that the Dayton Chamber seeks to vindicate in this action are germane to its purpose. Businesses join the Dayton Chamber because of its broad commitment to “improv[ing] the region’s business climate.” Dkt. 29-2, Kershner Decl. at PageID 171 ¶4. To further that commitment, the Chamber must wear multiple hats simultaneously. At times, it serves as a resource for local businesses looking to learn best practices and improve internal operations. Other times, it is a lobbying force pushing state and federal lawmakers to enact pro-competitive and pro-business policies. And yet other times, the Dayton Chamber pursues its agenda through litigation challenging unlawful governmental actions. *See id.* Each of those efforts contributes to fostering a “business friendly legislative and regulatory environment that encourages the growth and economic prosperity of businesses.” *Id.* at ¶6.

With respect to this litigation specifically, the President and CEO of the Dayton Chamber warned that the Drug Price Negotiation Program would

“hamper[] innovation and jeopardize[] free enterprise across business as a whole.” Chris Kershner & Steve Stivers, *Ohio Businesses Cannot Stand for Government Overreach*, Dayton Daily News (June 25, 2023), <http://tinyurl.com/4fvkedsk>. It was natural for the Dayton Chamber to be concerned because it includes “various members across the supply chain that are impacted by [the Program].” Dayton Area Chamber of Com., *Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Joins Ohio, Michigan, and U.S. Chambers in Lawsuit Against Federal Government Overreach* (June 9, 2023), <https://tinyurl.com/yw26zycp>. Bringing this action was entirely consistent with the Dayton Chamber’s 118-year record of advocating for the business community.

B. The District Court Effectively Rewrote The Germaneness Requirement.

The district court reached a contrary conclusion because it asked the wrong question. The court did not ask whether the lawsuit’s subject matter is relevant to the organization’s purpose. Instead it asked whether the Dayton Chamber is representing the interests of members who have a significant physical and commercial presence in the Dayton area. The court thus wrongly introduced a novel geographic requirement into the associational-standing

analysis. The court also took far too narrow a view of the interests that the Dayton Chamber is entitled to protect in the courts.

1. The germaneness inquiry is tied to ensuring that a “modicum of concrete adverseness” exists between the plaintiff-association and the defendant, *Hodel*, 840 F.2d at 58, and courts should therefore analyze whether the lawsuit, if successful, furthers the type of interest that the members of an organization expect the organization to vindicate. *Bldg. & Const.*, 448 F.3d at 149. Nothing more, nothing less. The district court veered off course by asking an entirely different question: namely, whether the Dayton Chamber had identified affected members who have a significant physical and commercial presence, such as a corporate headquarters, in the Dayton area. *Dayton Area Chamber of Com. v. Becerra*, No. 3:23-cv-156, 2024 WL 3741510, at *5 (S.D. Ohio Aug. 8, 2024). The court concluded that this lawsuit could not be germane to the Dayton Chamber’s purpose because the association could not “directly connect[] the interests” of its identified members “to the business climate in the Dayton area.” *Id.*

The district court did not cite any other decisions to apply the germaneness analysis that way, nor are amici aware of any court to ask whether an association’s affected members are located or headquartered in

the same jurisdiction as the association. To the contrary, the germaneness analysis is keyed to the relationship between the litigation's *subject matter* and the organization's purpose. *See Hodel*, 840 F.2d at 58. For that reason, courts can analyze an association's standing without inquiring into the residency of its members. *See Fednav, Ltd.*, 547 F.3d at 615 (finding that a shipping association could challenge a permit requirement on behalf of its members with no inquiry into the corporate citizenship of the members); *see also Career Colls. & Schs. of Tex. v. U.S. Dept. of Educ.*, 98 F.4th 220, 234 (5th Cir. 2024) (trade association representing career schools could challenge federal regulations with no inquiry into where its members resided).

The district court adopted a “narrow interpretation” of the case law based on its own doubts about associational standing as a matter of first principles. *Becerra*, 2024 WL 3741510, at *5; *see id.* at *7 (citing *FDA v. All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. 367, 400-401 (2024) (Thomas, J., concurring)). But “[t]he structure of our judicial system mandates” that lower-court judges adhere faithfully to Supreme Court precedent, *Memphis Ctr. for Reproductive Health v. Slatery*, 14 F.4th 409, 456 (6th Cir. 2021) (Thapar, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part), and here the district court should have asked

simply whether “the interests [the Dayton Chamber] seeks to protect are germane to the organization’s purpose,” *Hunt*, 432 U.S. at 343.

Logic does not offer any more support than precedent for the district court’s innovation. There is no necessary relationship between a member’s brick-and-mortar locations and the lawsuit’s germaneness to an organization’s interest. Suppose Ohio passes a law forbidding certain types of alcohol sales and associations in both Cincinnati and Columbus sue. The Cincinnati association identifies a large liquor store in Covington, Kentucky as an injured member because that store primarily sells to customers in Ohio (which is why it joined the Cincinnati group in the first place, to protect its retail interests). The Columbus association identifies a small liquor store that makes limited local sales. On the district court’s view, those associations should be treated differently for standing purposes, even though they are equally representing their members’ interests.

One other court has already rejected the district court’s approach to germaneness. In a lawsuit brought by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce challenging a CFPB rule in the Northern District of Texas, the government argued that the Fort Worth Chamber lacked standing because it did not identify any members that were headquartered in Fort Worth. The district

court rejected the government’s argument because there was an obvious, tight link between the Fort Worth Chamber’s mission of promoting a “thriving business climate” in the region and the lawsuit’s interest in protecting members affected by the challenged rule. *Chamber of Com. of the U.S. v. CFPB*, No. 4:24-cv-213, 2024 WL 5012061, at *4 (N.D. Tex. Dec. 6, 2024).

2. The Dayton Chamber not only seeks to protect the specific interests of its pharmaceutical members; it also seeks to protect the broader interests of the Dayton business community, and those interests are likewise “germane to the organization’s purpose.” *Hunt*, 432 U.S. at 343. The district court reasoned that the Drug Price Negotiation Program’s “potential downstream effects” on the Dayton economy are “far too speculative to connect this lawsuit to the business climate of the Dayton area.” *Becerra*, 2024 WL 3741510, at *5. Here too, the district court erred. Whether an alleged harm is speculative goes to injury-in-fact, not germaneness. The point of germaneness is to ensure that the association will diligently pursue its case. The Dayton Chamber showed that it will.

Specifically, the Dayton Chamber showed that the Program threatens to harm the Dayton economy. As the Dayton Chamber documented, the Program’s price-fixing provisions reach every pharmaceutical manufacturer

in the country. 42 U.S.C. § 1320f. Thus, even if the Secretary only begins with the largest pharmaceutical companies, the Program will eventually affect the entire industry, whether directly or indirectly. The Program also risks disrupting the supply chains for many of the Dayton Chamber’s members. *See Dayton Area Chamber of Com., Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Joins Ohio, Michigan, and U.S. Chambers in Lawsuit Against Federal Government Overreach* (June 9, 2023), <https://tinyurl.com/yw26zycp> (“The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce has various members across the supply chain that are impacted by this federal law.”). Regulating the prices that pharmaceutical companies can charge will inevitably have spillover effects, whether in research and development, investment, or retail. There is no apparent reason why those effects would not be felt in the Dayton area.

II. THE DECISION BELOW THREATENS THE ABILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS TO REPRESENT THEIR MEMBERS.

The Supreme Court has observed that associational standing is important because organizational plaintiffs can possess three “special features” which are “advantageous both to the individuals represented and to the judicial system as a whole.” *Int’l Union, UAW v. Brock*, 477 U.S. 274, 289 (1986). Those features are (1) the “pre-existing reservoir of expertise and

capital . . . relating to the subject matter of the lawsuit,” (2) the ability to attract like-minded members who can pool resources together to “create an effective vehicle for vindicating” their shared interests, and (3) the accountability to these members that will “provide some guarantee that the association will work to promote [the members’] interests.” *Id.* at 289-290.

Those advantages are especially important in a federalist system like ours because regulated parties often must navigate a patchwork of overlapping and inconsistent rules and regulations issued by state and federal policymakers. See Jeffrey S. Sutton, *51 Imperfect Solutions: States and the Making of American Constitutional Law* (2018). Consider any national corporation that, although headquartered in a particular state, operates across a substantial number (or all) of the 50 states. Such a company must comply with each state’s and locality’s unique rules—anything from zoning to tax law—while also complying with federal law. And even large companies find it difficult and costly to monitor regulatory developments across a host of jurisdictions.

For that reason, local associations like the various Chambers of Commerce have become critical resources for their members. These associations can leverage their expertise and familiarity with local dynamics

to be effective while spreading the costs of advocacy across their members. Thus, it is now entirely ordinary for companies to be active members of many different associations that represent their interests in discrete ways. Some organizations will train attention and husband resources to lobby for a specific mission, while others—like the Dayton Chamber—will have more holistic agendas focused on a favorable regulatory environment for members. This constellation of associations allows companies to further their interests across the multiple jurisdictions in which they operate.

The district court's rule threatens to frustrate these important goals by requiring associations to bring suit only in jurisdictions where their members are headquartered. Again, that rule bears no logical relationship to the germaneness requirement. Suppose that the city council in Ann Arbor is considering whether to regulate vacation-rental services. Presumably national vacation-rental services (and national hotel chains) have an interest in that issue, but on the district court's approach it would be of no moment even if every one of those companies is a card-carrying, dues-paying member of the Ann Arbor Chamber. The court's test is disconnected from the role of the germaneness requirement, which is to ensure that the association

possesses sufficient “adversarial vigor to litigate.” *Ass’n. of Am. Physicians & Surgeons v. FDA*, 13 F.4th at 542.

Worse still, the district court’s rule would disproportionately handicap associations like many of the amici which are located in jurisdictions where significant businesses are unlikely to be headquartered. Indeed, this case is a poster child for the unequal outcomes that this rule would generate. Under the district court’s theory of associational standing, the only appropriate venues for this lawsuit were California, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Washington. *Becerra*, 2024 WL 3741510, at *5-6. To be sure, other associations with other pharmaceutical members might be able to sue in additional venues, but the point remains that litigation will be concentrated in the places where industries are headquartered—even if the effects of governmental regulation are felt everywhere.

* * *

The Dayton Chamber clearly documented how the Program, which threatens to overhaul the country’s pharmaceutical and healthcare industries, would materially impact the Dayton economy in ways both direct and indirect. Under well-settled law, that should have been enough.

CONCLUSION

The Court should reverse the judgment below.

Dated: December 30, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey B. Wall

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 32(g)(1), I certify that this brief complies with the length limitation of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(5) because this brief contains 3,956 words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(f).

This brief complies with the typeface requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(6) because this brief has been prepared in a proportionately spaced typeface using Century Expanded BT 14-point font.

Dated: December 30, 2024

/s/ Jeffrey B. Wall
Jeffrey B. Wall

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 30, 2024 I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by using the appellate CM/ECF system.

I certify that all participants in this case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished through the CM/ECF system.

Date: December 30, 2024

/s/ Jeffrey B. Wall _____

Jeffrey B. Wall

APPENDIX

List of Amici Curiae

Aiken Chamber of Commerce
Alaska Chamber
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of
Arkansas
Barrow County Chamber of Commerce
Bay City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Bend Chamber of Commerce
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
Billings Chamber of Commerce
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Butler County Chamber of Commerce
Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Casper Area Chamber of Commerce
Champaign County Chamber of Commerce
Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce
Colorado Chamber of Commerce
Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Commerce Lexington
Covington Chamber of Commerce
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Main Street, Inc.
Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce
Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce

Frederick County Chamber of Commerce
Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Akron Chamber
Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc. the Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Niles, MI Chamber of Commerce
Greater North Dakota Chamber
Greater Omaha Chamber
Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
Greater Taylor Chamber of Commerce
Greater Vancouver Chamber
Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce
Greater Winston Salem, Inc.
Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills (GLMV) Chamber of
Commerce
Greenwood Chamber of Commerce
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
Habersham County Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Chamber
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & Capital Region Economic Development
Corporation
Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce Corporation
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce
Jeffersontown Chamber
Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Lake Barkley Chamber
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Lander Chamber of Commerce

Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Little Miami River Chamber Alliance
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber
Loudoun County (VA) Chamber of Commerce
Madison County Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
McLean County Chamber of Commerce
Meridian Chamber of Commerce
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Mississippi Economic Council - The State Chamber
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mobile Chamber
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Mountain Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
New Mexico Chamber of Commerce
Newnan-Coweta Chamber
Nordonia Hills Chamber of Commerce
Norman Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Chamber
North Country Chamber of Commerce
Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Perry County Chamber of Commerce
Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Queens Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Rowan Chamber of Commerce

Santa Rosa Metro Chamber
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce
SnoValley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County PA Chamber
South Bend Regional Chamber
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance
Springboro Chamber of Commerce
St. Charles Regional Chamber
State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tampa Bay Chamber
The Business Council of NY State, Inc.
The Chamber Grand Forks East Grand Forks
The Chamber of Commerce serving Middletown, Monroe, Trenton (OH)
The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Pigeon Forge Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
The Huber Heights Chamber of Commerce
Thomson McDuffie Chamber of Commerce
Tipp City Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Trotwood Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber
Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Union County KY Chamber of Commerce
Vail Valley Partnership
Vegas Chamber
Washington County Chamber of Commerce
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce
Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of Commerce
Worthington Area Chamber
Wyoming Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce

Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
Zanesville-Muskingum County Chamber of Commerce

January 31, 2025

Honorable John D. Bates
Chair, Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure
Judicial Conference of the United States
One Columbus Circle Northeast
Washington, District of Columbia 20544

Re: Request for Comments on Proposed Amendments to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29

Dear Judge Bates:

The undersigned organizations write to express their opposition to the proposed amendments to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29. Collectively, our associations are concerned that the proposed amendments will infringe on core First Amendment rights and impose unnecessary burdens on amicus curiae and the federal courts of appeals.

First, the proposed disclosure amendments threaten the First Amendment rights of amicus organizations and their members and/or supporters. As the Supreme Court has recently explained, compelled disclosure of information about an association’s members inevitably exerts a “deterrent effect on the exercise of First Amendment rights” and must satisfy at least “exacting scrutiny.” *Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Bonta*, 594 U.S. 595, 606 (2021); *see also id.* at 619 (Thomas, J., concurring in part and concurring in the judgment); *id.* at 623 (Alito, J., concurring in part and concurring in the judgment). The proposed amendments do not meet that demanding standard because they mandate broad disclosures untethered to the purposes of Rule 29. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 29 advisory committee notes (“The [current] disclosure requirement . . . serves to deter counsel from using an amicus brief to circumvent page limits on the parties’ briefs” and “may help judges to assess whether the amicus itself considers the issue important enough to sustain the cost and effort of filing[.]”). They are also unnecessary, as the disclosure requirements in the current version of Rule 29 already protect the integrity of amicus participation—without intruding on the privacy of relationships between amicus organizations and their members or deterring amicus organizations from submitting their views on important issues.

Second, the proposals to require amicus organizations to file a motion for leave in every case, and to establish new criteria for judges to apply in ruling on those motions, are equally problematic. Amicus briefs are often helpful to the court, and to the extent they are not, the judges who decide the merits of the case are free to ignore them. That is why the Supreme Court has repeatedly loosened its rules on amicus filings and today requires neither a motion nor consent. The opposite approach taken here will burden federal courts with unnecessary motions and undermine the efficient disposition of cases. Moreover, by specifying when an amicus brief is “disfavored,” the proposal places a thumb on the scale against granting leave to file amicus briefs, which is likely to result in the acceptance of fewer amicus briefs and may discourage amicus participation altogether. The proposed motions requirement is also unnecessary to resolving the Advisory Committee’s concerns about judicial recusal. Under the existing version of Rule 29, judges are permitted to strike an amicus brief regardless of whether it is accompanied by a motion

for leave to file. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 29(a)(2). Establishing a motions requirement is a solution in search of a problem that does not exist.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that the Committee reject the proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

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Jillian Froment
Executive Vice President & General Counsel
American Council of Life Insurers

Andrew J. Topps
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Business Roundtable

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Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce

Montana

Todd O'Hair
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Pennsylvania

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President
Alle Kiski Strong Chamber of Commerce

Nicole Deary
President & Chief Executive Officer
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce

Chris Berleth
President & Chief Executive Officer
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

Ryan Unger
President & Chief Executive Officer
Harrisburg Regional Chamber

Neal Leshner
Director of Government Affairs
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
Industry

Robert Carl
President & Chief Executive Officer
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce

Jason Fink
President & Chief Executive Officer
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of
Commerce

Rhode Island

Erin Donovan-Boyle
President & Chief Executive Officer
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Mike Brenan
President
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Jeff Griffin
President & Chief Executive Officer
Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Texas

Kelly Hall
President & Chief Executive Officer
Longview Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Mary Catherine Perry
Vice President of Public Policy
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce

Jay Francis
President & Chief Executive Officer
South Valley Chamber

Alyn Toalepai
President
Utah Pacific Islander Chamber of
Commerce

Virginia

John Easter
Senior Vice President of Government and
Community Affairs
ChamberRVA

Barry Butler
Director of Government Relations
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Richard Wren
Executive Director
New Kent Chamber of Commerce

Washington

Stephanie Rees
President & CEO
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Alex Kim
Vice President of Public Policy
Finseca

Jake Mayson
Director of Public Policy
Greater Spokane Inc.

Jen Dean
CEO
Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce

Marie Dymkoski
Executive Director
Pullman Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

David Vander Bloomen
President & CEO
De Pere Area Chamber of Commerce

Elizabeth Mueller
Executive Director
Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce

Dale Kooyenga
President & CEO
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of
Commerce

Scott Manley
Executive Vice President of Government
Relations
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Dale Steenbergen
CEO
Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce

Dale Steenbergen
CEO
Wyoming Chamber of Commerce

February 26, 2025

To Members of the United States Congress:

The undersigned organizations support extending pro-growth tax policies that have raised workers' wages, helped families weather inflation, and led to more well-paying jobs. The individual, business, and estate tax provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("TCJA") have been instrumental in helping achieve these goals and should be made permanent.

As lawmakers contemplate advancing tax reform legislation through budget reconciliation this year, the importance of adopting the appropriate budget baseline cannot be overstated. We believe it is imperative that Congress adopt a current-policy baseline.

Adopting a current-policy baseline would avoid a \$4 trillion dollar tax increase on American families and employers by creating a pathway for Congress to make the TCJA permanent. Doing so would provide businesses the certainty and stability they need to make the long-term investments that drive growth, accelerate productivity, and increase prosperity across all segments of the economy.

Adopting a current-policy baseline would give lawmakers a real chance to deliver permanent tax relief for American families and employers and would not increase the deficit relative to current policy.

History shows that thoughtful tax policy can drive economic growth while improving fiscal responsibility. Lawmakers have the tool in hand to do both, and now is the time to use it.

Sincerely,

National

American Chemistry Council
American Cleaning Institute
American Financial Services Association
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Hotel & Lodging Association
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Career Education Colleges and Universities

Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
Independent Petroleum Association of America
International Franchise Association
International Sign Association
Meat Institute
Metals Service Center Institute
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
National Association of Professional Employer Organizations
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Parking Association
National Pork Producers Council
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
Plastics Industry Association
Security Industry Association
The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Valve Manufacturers Association

Alabama

Automotive Aftermarket Association Southeast
Business Council of Alabama
Choctaw County Chamber of Commerce
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Enterprise Chamber of Commerce
Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Mountain Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Opelika Chamber of Commerce
Pell City Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Selma-Dallas County Chamber of Commerce
Shoals Chamber of Commerce
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

Alaska

Alaska Chamber

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Bullhead Area Chamber of commerce
Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Greater Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce
Kingman Area Chamber Of Commerce
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Peoria Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber
West Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce

Arkansas

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Rogers Lowell Chamber

California

Brea Chamber of Commerce
California Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber
Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of California Chambers Orange County
Colusa County Chamber of Commerce
Corona Chamber of Commerce

Cupertino Chamber of Commerce
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bakersfield Chamber
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Chamber of Commerce
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
Greater Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
North San Diego Business Chamber
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Porterville Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce
Redlands Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tracy Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
Visalia Chamber of Commerce
West Ventura County Business Alliance

Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

Colorado

Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Connecticut

Connecticut Business & Industry Association

Delaware

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Accelerate Brevard

Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce

Florida Chamber of Commerce

Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce

Greater Gainesville Chamber

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce

JAX Chamber

Lake City - Columbia County Chamber of Commerce

Lakeland Chamber of Commerce

Nassau County Chamber of Commerce

Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce

Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

South Dade Chamber of Commerce

South Tampa Chamber

Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce

Tampa Bay Chamber

Walton Area Chamber of Commerce

Georgia

Alliance for Dade

Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

Barrow County Chamber of Commerce

Cobb Chamber of Commerce

Columbia County Chamber of Commerce

Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce

Douglas County Chamber

Fayette Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Greater North Fulton Chamber
Greene County Chamber of Commerce
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
Habersham County Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce
Murray County Chamber of Commerce
Newnan-Coweta Chamber
Rome Floyd Chamber of Commerce
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
Talbot County Chamber of Commerce
Thomson-McDuffie Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Hanapepe Economic Alliance
Kapolei Chamber of Commerce
Maui Chamber of Commerce
Molokai Chamber of Commerce
North Shore Chamber of Commerce
West Kauai Business & Professional Association

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce
Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry
Kuna Chamber of Commerce
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce
Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

Chamber630
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Lake Villa - Lindenhurst - Round Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
McLean County Chamber of Commerce
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce

Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Crossroads Chamber
Evansville Regional Economic Partnership
Greater Lawrence Chamber
Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce
Perry County Chamber of Commerce
South Bend Regional Chamber

Iowa

Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Burlington Partnership
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Grow Cedar Valley
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Iowa Business Council
Mason City Chamber of Commerce
Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce

Kansas

Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Topeka Chamber
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington
Greater Louisville, Inc.
Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Minden Chamber

Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce

Maine

Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Harford County Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce

Massachusetts

Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce
Eastham Chamber of Commerce
Eastham Part-time Residents Taxpayers Association
North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce
Midland Business Alliance
Southeast Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce
Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Greater Mankato Growth
Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce

Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce
Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce
St Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
Waconia Chamber of Commerce
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi

Community Development Foundation
Hancock Chamber of Commerce
Hattiesburg Area Development Partnership
Mississippi Economic Council

Missouri

Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Kearney Chamber of Commerce
Liberty Chamber
St. Charles Regional Chamber

Montana

Billings Chamber of Commerce
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Omaha Chamber
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
North Platte Area Chamber and Development Corporation
Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

Nevada

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Mesquite Chamber of Commerce

Vegas Chamber

New Hampshire

Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire
Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce

New Jersey

Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce

New York

Business Council of New York State, Inc.
Capital Region Chamber
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
North Country Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina

Alamance Chamber
Alleghany County Chamber
Apex Chamber of Commerce
Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce
Charlotte Regional Business Alliance
Greater Raleigh Chamber
Greater Winston Salem, Inc.
Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce
Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce
Moore County Chamber of Commerce
NC Chamber
Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce
Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce
Rowan Chamber of Commerce
The Caldwell Chamber
The Chamber of Catawba County
Triad Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition

North Dakota

Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

Greater North Dakota Chamber
The Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks

Ohio

Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Clintonville Area Business Association
Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Akron Chamber
Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Partnership
Licking County Chamber of Commerce
Marion Area Chamber of Commerce
Northmont Area Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Perry County Chamber of Commerce
Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance
The Huber Heights Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

Oklahoma

Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce
Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
Norman Chamber of Commerce
South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce
The State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Boardman Chamber of Commerce
Canby Area Chamber of Commerce
McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry
Oregon State Chamber of Commerce

Portland Metro Chamber
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce
Umatilla Chamber of Commerce
Washington County Chamber of Commerce
Wilsonville Area Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Allegheny Conference on Community Development
Butler County Chamber of Commerce
Cambria Regional Chamber
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce
Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry
Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Harrisburg Regional Chamber
Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce
Lawrence County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County PA Chamber
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce
Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Aiken Chamber of Commerce

Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce
Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce
Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce
Greenville Chamber
Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
OneSpartanburg, Inc.
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Upstate Chamber Coalition

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce
South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Tennessee

Blount County Chamber of Commerce
Bristol Chamber of Commerce
Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce
Germantown Chamber of Commerce
Johnson City Chamber of Commerce
Kingsport Chamber of Commerce
Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
Sevierville Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Texas

Baytown Chamber of Commerce
Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce
Dallas Regional Chamber
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater Waco Chamber
Greenville Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber
Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce

North Texas Commission
Temple Chamber of Commerce
Texas Association of Business
Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce
ChamberWest
Davis Chamber of Commerce
Salt Lake Chamber
South Valley Chamber
St. George Area Chamber of Commerce
Utah Pacific Islander Chamber of Commerce
Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce

Vermont

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Blackstone Chamber of Commerce
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
ChamberRVA
Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce
Culpeper County Chamber Of Commerce
Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce
Halifax County Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Chamber
Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance
Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce
Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce
South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Peninsula Chamber

Washington

Association of Washington Business
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce

Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Coupeville Chamber of Commerce
Covington Chamber of Commerce
Greater Kingston Community Chamber of Commerce
Greater Kitsap Chamber
Greater Spokane Incorporated
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Pullman Chamber of Commerce
Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce
SnoValley Chamber
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
Washington Retail Association

West Virginia

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

De Pere Area Chamber of Commerce
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
Envision Greater Fond du Lac
Greater Green Bay Chamber
Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce
Riverton Chamber and Visitors Council
Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming Chamber of Commerce
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce

March 6, 2025

Dear Members of the Alabama State Senate,

As representatives of the business community in Alabama, we write to express our strong opposition to proposed legislation in the Alabama Senate that would add a \$10.64 dispensing fee to every prescription filled in the state. This proposal represents a significant and unnecessary cost burden that will negatively impact Alabama's employers and employees. If passed, an estimated \$347 million will be added to the cost of delivering prescription medicine in Alabama each year, according to the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association.

The groups represented in this letter include employers of all sizes, from small businesses to large corporations, located in every corner of Alabama. These organizations are united in their opposition to the proposed legislation due to the significant and far-reaching consequences it would have on the economic well-being of our state. Regardless of size or location, the impact would be felt across the entire business community, as all would be forced to shoulder the burden of these new costs.

While proponents claim that Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) will absorb the fee, history has shown that higher costs are rarely absorbed by one party without being passed on to others. In this case, the burden of this fee would ultimately fall on employers, their employees, and consumers.

For small and large businesses alike, this is not just an inconvenience—this is a crippling new cost that will strain operations, decrease competitiveness, and reduce the ability to provide affordable healthcare benefits to employees. Small businesses that are already working within tight margins will bear an outsized impact. The ripple effects of these increased costs will extend throughout the economy, jeopardizing both the economic health of our businesses and the livelihoods of hardworking Alabamians.

Furthermore, this legislation sets a troubling precedent that undermines the economic stability of Alabama's workforce. The impact of such a fee will not be isolated but will extend to every corner of our economy. Employees will feel the impact in their take-home pay, and businesses will face increased financial pressure across various sectors. The result could be fewer jobs, reduced wages, and a negative effect on the overall economic health of the state.

As the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) has communicated in testimony before the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, we believe that there are more sustainable, fair, and effective solutions to address concerns surrounding PBMs without burdening Alabama's businesses and workers. Rather than imposing additional financial strain on employers and employees, we urge

legislators to consider alternatives that would achieve meaningful regulatory changes to the root cause of the problem while preserving the economic stability of our state.

On behalf of the undersigned associations, organizations, and companies across Alabama, we urge you to reject adding a dispensing fee to prescriptions and work toward a better solution for all Alabamians. We are committed to collaborating with lawmakers to develop sustainable policy solutions that do not jeopardize Alabama's economic future.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to working with you to protect Alabama's employers, workers, and families.

Sincerely,





May 2, 2025

The Honorable Shomari Figures
Unites States House of Representatives
225 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Figures:

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber, I am writing to express our support to the Alabama Port Authority's congressionally directed spending request for \$4.3 million for FY26 funding for Pier 2 Dock modernization. The Pier D2 Dock Extension is located within the main docks complex at the Port of Mobile and will allow for the Port's continued capacity growth.

The project includes the design, permitting, and construction of 203 linear feet of new berth area to improve the efficiency, reliability, and safety of the marine operations within the main docks complex at the Port of Mobile and at the Alabama Steel Terminals at Pier D2. It would include the removal of 203 linear feet of existing retaining wall, relocation of the existing retaining wall land side of a new steel pile supported 1,000 Pounds Per Square Foot capacity decking and construction of a new steel piles, timber wales, and rubber unit fendering system.

Due to the rapid growth of the Port and industries in our state, such as automotive, aerospace, and defense, all that require steel, this request is crucial to maintaining operational fluidity at the Port.

The project will eliminate cross traffic flow at the berth, creating safer working conditions and eliminate draying, saving travel distance and time by creating a dedicated barge berth. It will also improve the operating efficiency, reliability, and safety of daily operations. The project is a good use of taxpayer dollars as it creates jobs and increases investment in Mobile and the surrounding areas.

With the Port's vast assets and rapid growth in mind, we support this congressionally directed spending request for the completion of Pier D2 as an investment in the Port of Mobile to support Alabama's steel industry. The Mobile Chamber has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the Alabama Port Authority and supports its efforts to continue to improve our state.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley Byrne", written over a large, loopy scribble.

Bradley Byrne
President and CEO



June 26, 2025

Edwin L. Perry III, P.E.
Project Director
Mobile River Bridge and Bayway
107 St. Francis Street 27th Floor
Mobile, AL 36602

Subject: Air Draft Clearance for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge

On behalf of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to reaffirm our strong support for the proposed Mobile River bridge project with a vertical clearance of 215 feet. This critical infrastructure is essential to the economic vitality and future prosperity of our region.

An air draft clearance of 215 feet would allow the Port of Mobile to remain competitive in the cruise industry and cargo shipping. This height specification is not arbitrary – it represents a carefully calculated requirement that addresses current and future maritime needs. The height would accommodate larger cruise ships with air drafts of up to 210 feet, ensuring that Mobile can continue to attract major cruise lines and their passengers to our community.

Furthermore, this clearance height assures continued operations of Mobile's maritime industry, which serves as a cornerstone of our regional economy. The ability to accommodate modern cargo vessels and cruise ships without operational restrictions will preserve existing jobs while creating opportunities for future growth and development.

Our region is making transformative improvements to our seaport and airport that will benefit everyone who lives and works in our area. These investments are positioning Mobile as a premier gateway for commerce and tourism in the Gulf Coast region. However, the success of these initiatives is directly tied to having adequate infrastructure that can support increased maritime traffic and larger vessels.

We stand ready to provide any additional information or support that may be helpful in advancing this vital project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley Byrne", written over a faint circular watermark or background.

Bradley Byrne
President and CEO

To the Members of the United States Congress:

We write to urge you to take meaningful and bipartisan action to pass comprehensive permitting reform. The time has come to modernize our nation's permitting systems so that our communities can build the infrastructure necessary to grow our economy, create good-paying jobs, and meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Across the country, communities and businesses are ready to invest in projects that will strengthen our economy and improve quality of life—from expanding broadband access and upgrading transportation networks, to building innovative energy facilities that will provide new sources of power to meet growing demand, and modernizing drinking water systems. But too often, outdated and inefficient permitting processes stand in the way, delaying these investments and driving up costs.

These delays not only increase the financial burden of construction due to inflation and rising material and labor costs but also postpone the critical benefits that new and improved infrastructure brings to communities. Families and businesses are left waiting for safer roads, better public transit, improved drinking water access, more affordable energy, and access to high-speed internet—essentials that drive economic growth, improve public health, and enhance quality of life. Improving permitting processes will empower businesses and communities to invest in and deliver the infrastructure needed to address today's challenges.

We continue to be united on the following principles: Predictability: Project developers and financiers must have an appropriate level of certainty regarding the scope and timeline for project reviews, including any related judicial review; Efficiency: Interagency coordination must be improved to optimize public and private resources while driving better environmental and community outcomes; Transparency: Project sponsors and the public must have visibility into the project permitting milestones and schedule through an easily accessible public means; Stakeholder Input: All relevant stakeholders must be adequately informed and have the opportunity to provide input within a reasonable and consistent timeframe.

A modernized permitting system will help us build smarter, faster, and more sustainably—we just need a system that keeps pace with our ambition. We urge Congress to work across the aisle to enact durable legislation this fall that reflects the urgency and opportunity before us. Our communities are ready to build.

Sincerely,

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

National

American Association of Port Authorities

American Cement Association

American Chemistry Council

American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute

American Council for Capital Formation

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Council on Renewable Energy

American Exploration & Production Council

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Forest & Paper Association

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

American Gas Association

American Iron and Steel Institute

American Petroleum Institute

American Public Gas Association

American Public Transportation Association

American Road & Transportation Builders Association

American Trucking Associations

American Wood Council

Associated Builders and Contractors

Association of American Railroads

Bipartisan Policy Center Action
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Carbon Capture Coalition
Center for Liquefied Natural Gas
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions
Citizens' Climate Lobby
Clean Energy Buyers Association
ClearPath Action
Climeworks
Competitive Carriers Association
ConservAmerica
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Council of Industrial Boiler Owners
Distribution Contractors Association
Electric Power Supply Association
Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
Equipment Leasing & Finance Association
Fiber Broadband Association
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Institute for Progress
International Council of Shopping Centers
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
Liquid Energy Pipeline Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers

National Association of Realtors
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Natural Gas Supply Association
National Lime Association
National Ocean Industries Association
National Parking Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Utility Contractors Association
Partnership to Address Global Emissions
Pennsylvania Utility Contractors Association
Plastics Industry Association
Public Lands Council
R Street Institute
TechNet
The Hardwood Federation
LNG Allies
Treated Wood Council
U.S. Industrial Pellet Association
Vinyl Institute

Alabama

Business Council of Alabama
Coastal Alabama Business Chamber

Enterprise Chamber of Commerce

Mobile Chamber

Mountain Lakes 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 Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce

Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce

Chandler Chamber of Commerce

Gilbert Chamber of Commerce

Graham County Chamber of Commerce

Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce

Greater Phoenix Chamber

Greater Sedona Chamber of Commerce

Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce

Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce

Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Peoria Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Southern Arizona
West Valley Regional Chamber

Arkansas

Arkansas State Chamber
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce
Associated Industries of Arkansas, Inc.
Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Rogers Lowell Chamber
Texarkana Chamber of Commerce

California

Armenian American Chamber of Commerce
Bay Area Council
Brea Chamber of Commerce
Buellton Chamber of Commerce
California Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau
Campbell Chamber of Commerce

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce
Colusa County Chamber
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
Encinitas Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bakersfield Chamber
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
Greater Irvine Chamber
Greater Ontario Business Council
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley
Hollywood 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
Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce
Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce

Murrieta Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
North San Diego Business Chamber
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association
Pomona Chamber of Commerce
Porterville Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
San Clemente Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
South County Chambers of Commerce
Sun City Roseville Community Association

Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
West Ventura County Business Alliance
Western States Trucking Association
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

Colorado

Adams County Regional Economic Partnership
Castle Rock Chamber
Colorado Chamber of Commerce
Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation
South Metro Denver Chamber
Summit County Chamber of Commerce
Vail Valley Partnership
Western Energy Alliance

Connecticut

Connecticut Business & Industry Association, Inc.
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce

Delaware

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Florida Chamber of Commerce

Greater East Pasco Chamber of Commerce

Lakeland Chamber of Commerce

Osceola Chamber

Tampa Bay Chamber

Georgia

Barrow Chamber of Commerce

Cobb Chamber of Commerce

Dooly County Chamber of Commerce

Fayette County Chamber of Commerce

Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce

Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Kapolei Chamber of Commerce

Maui Chamber of Commerce

Idaho

Boise Metro Chamber

Greater Blackfoot Chamber of Commerce

Greater Idaho Falls Chamber

Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry

Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce

Illinois

American Foundry Society
Edwardsville Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association
Galena Area Chamber of Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry
McLean County Chamber of Commerce
Metals Service Center Institute
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Sandwich Area Chamber of Commerce
Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Water and Sewer Distributors of America
Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Crossroads Chamber
Decatur Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
South Bend Regional Chamber

Spencer County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Zionsville Chamber of Commerce

Iowa

American Carbon Alliance
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce
Grimes Chamber & Economic Development
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce (IA)

Kansas

Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce
Great Bend Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington
Greater Louisville Inc.
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development

Bossier Chamber of Commerce

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce

Greater Shreveport Chamber

Jefferson Chamber of Commerce

Jefferson David Parish Chamber of Commerce

Leaders for a Better Louisiana

Louisiana Association of Business & Industry

Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce

One Acadiana

River Region Chamber of Commerce

Ruston Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Tangipahoa Chamber of Commerce

West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce

Maine

Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

National Asphalt Pavement Association

Massachusetts

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Regional Chamber

Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

Blue Water Area Chamber

Detroit Regional Chamber

Grand Rapids Chamber

Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lapeer Area Chamber of Commerce

Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce

Southeast Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

Austin Area Chamber of Commerce

Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce

Delano Area Chamber of Commerce

Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce

Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

FORWARD Worthington

Greater Mankato Growth

Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce

Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce

Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce

Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Nisswa Chamber of Commerce
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce
St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
St. Paul Area Chamber
The Chamber Grand Forks East Grand Forks
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council

Missouri

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce
Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
St Joseph Chamber of Commerce
St. Charles Regional Chamber

Montana

Baker Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

Billings Chamber of Commerce

Eureka Area Chamber of Commerce

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

Missoula Chamber of Commerce

Montana Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska

Greater Omaha Chamber

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

South Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce

Nevada

Boulder City Chamber of Commerce

Carson City Chamber of Commerce

Henderson Chambers of Commerce

Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce

Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce

Vegas Chamber

White Pine Chamber of Commerce

New Hampshire

Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire

New Jersey

Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce
Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce
Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce
Hudson County Chamber of Commerce
Lodi Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Waldwick Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce
Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commer
New Mexico Chamber of Commerce
Rio Rancho Regional Chamber of Commerce
Taos Ski Valley Chamber of Commerce

New York

Capital Region Chamber
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
North Country Chamber of Commerce
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.

North Carolina

Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
Charlotte Regional Business Alliance
Gaston Business Association
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce
NC Chamber

North Dakota

Fargo Moorehead West Fargo Chamber
Greater North Dakota Chamber

Ohio

Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce
Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Huber Heights Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Perry County Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Trotwood Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce
Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber

Oklahoma

Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce
Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce

GPA Midstream Association
Norman Chamber of Commerce
Owasso Chamber of Commerce
Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce
The State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
American Forest Resource Council
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Bend Chamber of Commerce
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Business & Industry
Portland Metro Chamber
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania

Alle Kiski Strong Chamber
Allegheny Conference on Community Development
Beaver County Chamber of Commerce

Butler County Chamber of Commerce
Cambria Regional Chamber
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County
Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce
Greater Latrobe Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance
Greater Valley Chambe of Commerce
Harrisburg Regional Chamber
Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Chamber
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce
Somerset County Chamber
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
West Shore Chamber of Commerce
Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island

Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Inc.

North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina

Aiken Chamber of Commerce

Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce

Berkeley Chamber

Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce

Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce

Greater Summerville Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce

Greenville Chamber

Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce

Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

The Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Kingsport Chamber

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Texas

Austin Chamber of Commerce

CarbonFree Chemicals
Cen-Tex Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Consumer Energy Alliance
Dalhart Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
Dallas Regional Chamber
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce
El Paso Chamber
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Greenville Chamber of Commerce
Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce
North American Strategy for Competitiveness, Inc.
North Dallas Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission
Northern Brazoria County Chamber of Commerce
Odessa Chamber of Commerce
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Plastic Pipe Institute
Taylor Chamber of Commerce
Terrell Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau

Texas Association of Business
The Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce
ChamberWest Chamber of Commerce
Davis Chamber of Commerce
Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce
Payson Santaquin Chamber of Commerce
Salt Lake Chamber
South Valley Chamber
St. George Area Chamber of Commerce
Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce

Vermont

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Virginia

Agricultural Retailers Association
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
American Consumer Institute
American Public Power Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
Associated General Contractors of America

Career Education Colleges and Universities

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce

ChamberRVA

Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce

Composite Panel Association

Culpeper Chamber of Commerce

Essential Minerals Association

Hampton Roads Chamber

International Sign Association

Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Northern Virginia Chamber

Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce

State Business Executives

The Fertilizer Institute

Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Virginia Peninsula Chamber

Washington

American Exploration & Mining Association

Association of Washington Business

Bellevue Chamber of Commerce

Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Covington Chamber of Commerce

Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce

Greater Vancouver Chamber
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
The Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Thurston County Chamber
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce

West Virginia

Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley
The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
West Virginia Manufacturers Association

Wisconsin

Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
Envision Greater Fond du Lac
Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Monona East Side Business Alliance
Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce
Portage County Business Council
River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Campbell County Chamber of Commerce

Casper Area Chamber of Commerce

Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce

Platte County Chamber of Commerce

Riverton Chamber and Visitors Center

Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce

Wyoming Chamber of Commerce

Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce