

The Texas Association of Business (TAB) champions federal policies that enhance Texas' position as a global economic powerhouse. Texas consistently ranks as the top state for exports, energy production, and technological advancement, while attracting significant foreign direct investment. These priorities underscore our commitment to keeping Texas the best state for business.

## **TEXAS BUSINESS COMMUNITY - TOP 4 FEDERAL PRIORITIES**

1. Extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
2. Ensure the upcoming review of USMCA maintains and strengthens the agreement
3. Modernize visa and immigration policies to meet growing Texas workforce demands
4. Promote all-of-the-above-and-below energy strategy, cementing Texas' position as the energy capital of the world

## **KEY FEDERAL PRIORITIES**

### **IMPROVED TRADE AND BORDER SECURITY**

- Support immediate rescission of the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) decision to eliminate cargo traffic at the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) in El Paso, Texas. This decision will harm Texas businesses and communities by disrupting trade flows, increasing costs, and straining alternative ports of entry, undermining Texas' position as a leader in cross-border commerce.
- Oppose tariffs that disrupt economic development, particularly those affecting key trading partners like Mexico and Canada whose supply chains are strongly connected to the Texas economy.
- Secure federal reimbursement for Texas investments in border infrastructure and security, aligning with the state's role as a critical hub for international trade.
- Advocate for modernized infrastructure at Texas ports of entry, including funding for technological upgrades at the border to expedite trade and combat illicit activity.

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Expand and reform the H1B program to maintain global competitiveness and ensure Texas has access to highly-skilled workers.
- Support comprehensive immigration reform that includes retaining the TN Visa program under USMCA to meet the growing workforce demands of Texas businesses.
- Support pathways for DACA recipients, facilitating their integration into the workforce.
- Advocate for federal initiatives that support Texas' workforce development priorities, such as funding for skills-based training, apprenticeships, and adult education programs.
- Advocate for childcare accessibility to boost workforce participation, aligning with Texas' Tri-Share model.
- Align federal workforce funding with Texas' high-demand industries and regionally-tailored credentialing programs.

### **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

- Advance an "all-of-the-above-and-below" energy strategy, expanding access to Texas oil, natural gas, solar, wind, nuclear, geothermal, hydrogen, and Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) technologies.
- Support the Texas Railroad Commission's application for primacy over Class VI injection wells for CCS storage to streamline permitting, ensure regulatory certainty, and maintain Texas' competitive edge in energy innovation and production.
- Reverse the Biden Administration's pause on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export approvals and streamline the permitting process for all energy infrastructure projects.
- Ensure federal investments in critical water and energy infrastructure projects align with Texas' growing population and industrial needs, including in hydrogen, battery storage, and small modular reactors (SMRs).

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

- Promote federal initiatives that support the development of cutting edge technology, including semiconductors, in Texas to enhance national security and improve our position as a leader in advanced manufacturing.
- Support federal incentives, including R&D tax credits, to bolster investment in advanced technologies and manufacturing sectors critical to Texas, such as semiconductors, bioscience, and aerospace.
- Collaborate on AI policy development, ensuring Texas has a voice in shaping a uniform national framework that supports innovation while addressing ethical concerns, and preempting states from overburdensome regulations that stifle AI innovation.
- Support Texas' public and private military assets to secure Texas' position as a key defense tech hub.
- Support initiatives to support the space industry in Texas, a sector crucial to Texas' economy and our national security.

## TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Maximize Texas' allocation from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for broadband, ports, rail, and highways.
- Promote public-private partnerships to meet Texas' growing transportation demands.
- Ensure federal policies support autonomous vehicles, Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), and hydrogen fueling infrastructure.
- Protect funding for electric vehicle infrastructure, ensuring seamless integration into Texas' transportation network.
- Support hydrogen fueling and electric vehicle charging for heavy-duty freight trucking and medium-duty distribution vehicles needed to maximize supply chain efficiencies and reduce air emissions.

## HEALTHCARE

- Support reforms that reduce healthcare costs for employers and employees, including telemedicine expansion and top-of-license practices for healthcare providers.
- Preserve the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).
- Allow Texas more flexibility to receive its fair share of Medicaid funds access while streamlining coverage transitions for families, improving Texas healthcare outcomes.
- Promote value-based care and bundled payment models to enhance efficiency and transparency in healthcare delivery.

## GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

- Support federal DOGE efforts to streamline regulations, cut through unnecessary bureaucracy, and reduce administrative burdens on businesses.
- Cut federal spending and ensure federal deficits are sustainable.
- Advocate for regulatory simplification and modernization of federal agencies, mirroring Texas' successes.
- Combat overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or other federal agencies, particularly in permitting delays and regulatory interference that hampers Texas' economic growth.
- Establish a third-party appeals process for banking disputes, such as the Fair Exams Act.
- Promote transparency in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) by transitioning to a commission-led structure and bringing the bureau's budget under Congressional oversight.

### Questions?

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