



TECH MEANS BUSINESS

ALL BUSINESSES ARE TECH
BUSINESSES

Technology is at the core of every Texas business regardless of size, sector, or region. TAB supports policies that build innovative, sustainable, technology and cybersecurity policies to ensure all Texas employers can succeed. Additionally, TAB advocates for policies that create an environment in Texas where companies can invest, innovate, and operate confidently within a competitive and predictable regulatory framework. According to the 2022 TAB economic impact study, the tech sector significantly bolstered our state's economy, contributing to \$469.75 billion - equivalent to 19.6% of total GDP.

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Emerging Technologies: When considering statewide legislation and the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning, TAB supports:

- **Avoiding blanket prohibitions** on artificial intelligence, machine learning, or other forms of automated decision-making. Reserve any restrictions only for specific, identified use-cases that present a clearly demonstrated risk of unacceptable harm, and narrowly tailor those requirements to the harms identified.
- Ensuring consistency and interoperability with existing regulatory structures by leveraging the **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)** AI and machine learning benchmarks, standards, and policy development as a key resource for Texas innovators and policymakers.
- **Promoting innovation**, transparency, and economic opportunity while enforcing current existing anti-discrimination laws.
- Distinctions recognized between developers, deployers, AI, automated decision making, and end users.
- The **burden being on the creator of content** and not the business, platform, or method used to transmit, share, or broadcast that content.

Infrastructure: TAB supports industry-driven initiatives that address the state's **growing critical infrastructure needs**, including dedicated water supply, electricity, use of small nuclear reactors (**SMRs**), and other essential services. Additionally, TAB supports the growth of the **data center** industry by promoting a positive regulatory and tax environment.

Investment in Advanced Technology: TAB supports measures and programs that leverage our ranking as a top state for advanced technology and semiconductor R&D and manufacturing. Tech Companies are at the forefront of investing in **R&D technology and infrastructure** across a wide range of fields, from AI and robotics to healthcare.

Access to Capital: TAB supports encouraging investment opportunities and **access to capital**, especially for smaller technology enterprises.

Talent Pipeline:

- TAB supports an all-of-the-above approach to workforce development that aligns with high demand tech jobs.
- TAB supports programs that increase **access to STEM** and computer science instruction for students of all ages, including ensuring Texas supports the development of highly qualified STEM and computer science teachers.
- TAB supports measures to increase access to **attainable housing** by reducing unnecessary regulations and permitting restrictions and allowing property owners to use their private property for its highest and best use.

Broadband:

- TAB supports policies that increase **access to high-speed broadband** by removing barriers to deployment, promoting collaborative efforts with experienced providers to leverage public resources, and encouraging broadband adoption through digital education to improve online access to government services, telework, telemedicine and rural economic development.
- TAB supports tax policy encouraging investment and efforts to **increase access to modern communications infrastructure**.

Cybersecurity & IT Modernization: TAB supports continuing to **modernize state agency IT** to help combat cyber risks, allow all citizens to access more state information and services online, and improve the state's IT disaster recovery and telework regulatory frameworks.

Questions? Please contact Megan Mauro, mmauro@txbiz.org