



# 2019 Legislative Priorities

Version Four • Adopted: February 13, 2019 • <http://www.amfa-mn-wi.org>

## 1 Streamline Regulatory & Permitting Processes

## 2 Support Efficient Tax Code Reform to Reduce Burden on Businesses

## 3 Invest in Workforce Development & Talent Recruitment

## 4 Maintain Critical Multi-Modal Transportation Infrastructure

### The Challenge

The global mining downturn continues to challenge our regional economy, where small businesses often depend on activity from larger projects.

Steep competition in the global economy limits manufacturers' ability to absorb increases in external operational costs in the form of taxes and fees.

Regional manufacturers are poised for growth, but they struggle to attract and retain skilled workers, especially in rural communities.

Our region benefits from outstanding transportation infrastructure, but the system is aging and undue restrictions limit its potential.

### The Opportunity

We have an opportunity to modernize and expand our heavy industrial base through the approval of several major projects currently proposed.

As the economy expands, legislators can incentivize growth in the manufacturing sector by eliminating burdensome taxes and fees.

Regional businesses are working collaboratively with educators to create workforce recruitment strategies and new customized training programs.

Legislatures in MN & WI will need to consider bills related to transportation funding in upcoming legislative sessions, to keep our infrastructure safe.

### The AMFA Position

AMFA supports responsible permitting reform to eliminate excess time and costs for major projects, and to reduce burdens for small businesses.

AMFA supports tax reforms to reduce the effective rate paid by manufacturers, and economic development programs that support growth.

AMFA supports streamlining youth apprenticeship programs, increasing funding for K-12 technical ed., and curriculum reform focused on trades, not just 4-year university prep.

AMFA supports aggressive funding for transportation infrastructure and the easing of restrictions to allow for more efficient use of these assets.

### Preferred Outcomes

- Approval of permits for Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline replacement project
- Uphold the reversal of the Twin Metals mineral lease revocation and support this new era in MN mining

- Reduce income tax for companies affected by "pass-through" system
- Expand R&D tax credits
- Update Section 179 to conform with Federal law
- Enact uniform labor standards

- Build upon the success of the Youth Skills Training program
- Dedicate new funding for industrial training equipment in K-12 schools
- Enact trades-based curriculum reform in areas of mathematics and writing

- Increase weight limits on MN's state/interstate highways, consistent with neighboring states
- Fully fund the Port Development Assistance Program (\$15M) through bond proceeds (\$10M) and general fund (\$5M)