



2020 Legislative Priorities

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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 Opportunity	The AMFA Position	Preferred Outcomes
1	The global mining downturn continues to challenge our regional economy, where small businesses often depend on activity from larger projects.	We have an opportunity to modernize and expand our heavy industrial base through the approval of several major projects currently proposed.	AMFA supports responsible permitting reform to eliminate excess time and costs for major projects, and to reduce burdens for small businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of permits for Enbridge Line 3 pipeline replacement • Uphold the reversal of the Twin Metals mineral leases revocation
2	Steep competition in the global economy limits manufacturers' ability to absorb increases in external operational costs in the form of taxes and fees.	As the economy expands, legislators can incentivize growth in the manufacturing sector by eliminating burdensome taxes and fees.	AMFA supports tax reforms to reduce the effective rate paid by manufacturers, and economic development programs that support growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced 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
3	Regional manufacturers are poised for growth, but they struggle to attract and retain skilled workers, especially in rural communities.	Regional businesses are working collaboratively with educators to create workforce recruitment strategies and new customized training programs.	AMFA supports increased funding for K-12 technical education and the streamlining youth apprenticeship programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the success of the Youth Skills Training program • Create a public/private match program to encourage the purchase of manufacturing equipment
4	Our region benefits from outstanding transportation infrastructure, but the system is aging and undue restrictions limit its potential.	Legislatures in MN & WI appear poised to consider bills related to transportation funding in upcoming legislative sessions.	AMFA supports aggressive funding for transportation infrastructure and the easing of restrictions to allow for more efficient use of these assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased, consistent weight limits on state/interstate highways • Full funding (\$10M) of Port Development Assistance Program