



2018 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
<p>The global mining downturn continues to challenge our regional economy, where small businesses often depend on activity from larger projects.</p>	<p>We have an opportunity to modernize and expand our heavy industrial base through the approval of several major projects currently proposed.</p>	<p>AMFA supports responsible permitting reform to eliminate excess time and costs for major projects, and to reduce burdens for small businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of permits for Enbridge Line 3 pipeline replacement • Approval of PolyMet Draft Permit to Mine issued Jan. 2018 • Reversal of MN-DNR’s revocation of Twin Metals mineral leases
<p>Steep competition in the global economy limits manufacturers’ ability to absorb increases in external operational costs in the form of taxes and fees.</p>	<p>As the economy expands, legislators can incentivize growth in the manufacturing sector by eliminating burdensome taxes and fees.</p>	<p>AMFA supports tax reforms to reduce the effective rate paid by manufacturers, and economic development programs that support growth.</p>	<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
<p>Regional manufacturers are poised for growth, but they struggle to attract and retain skilled workers, especially in rural communities.</p>	<p>Regional businesses are working collaboratively with educators to create workforce recruitment strategies and new customized training programs.</p>	<p>AMFA supports increased funding for K-12 technical education and the streamlining youth apprenticeship programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand grant capacity for new Youth Skills Training Program • Public/private match program to encourage the purchase of manufacturing equipment
<p>Our region benefits from outstanding transportation infrastructure, but the system is aging and undue restrictions limit its potential.</p>	<p>Legislatures in MN & WI appear poised to consider bills related to transportation funding in upcoming legislative sessions.</p>	<p>AMFA supports aggressive funding for transportation infrastructure and the easing of restrictions to allow for more efficient use of these assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased, consistent weight limits on state/interstate highways • Full funding (\$10M) of Port Development Assistance Program