

2023 Key Federal Priorities

Inflation & Pro-Growth Tax Policies:

We urge Congress to examine and adjust fiscal, monetary, regulatory, and labor policies to lower inflation, increase supply chain independence, encourage competition and workforce participation, and reduce prices for consumers. We support making permanent the strongest pro-growth provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, such as the 100% bonus depreciation of capital assets, and repealing or mitigating harmful new taxes included in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Pro-Business Regulatory Environment:

We support reducing regulatory burdens and governmental overreach, as well as providing clarity that supports job growth and innovation for major economic policies related to bourbon, energy, environment, equine, hemp, labor, and broadband policies at the federal level.

Increase Skilled Labor Force Through Immigration Reform:

We support Congress acting on reforms to ensure Kentucky employers have full access to a global talent pool. Specific recommendations include reforming the worker visa program, increasing the allotment of employer-based green cards, and providing legal certainty for DACA recipients and long-term beneficiaries of the Temporary Protected Status program. Congress should pursue these priorities while also working to secure the border.

Increase Access to Childcare to Support Workforce Participation:

We support Congress prioritizing a robust reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant and improve federal tax incentive programs such as the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit.

Support Innovation Investments:

We support the University of Kentucky (UK) and other regional stakeholders in efforts to establish a Regional Tech Hub Program through the U.S. Economic Development Administration to create an environment that nurtures innovation and collaboration. The CHIPS and Science Act authorized this program in August of 2022. The aim is to foster a strong ecosystem that brings together academia, industry, and government to drive economic growth and job creation for central Kentucky. Moreover, we fully support funding authorized under the CHIPS and Science Act for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) in FY24. This investment will enable UK to stimulate competitive research and encourage collaboration among researchers and institutions across Kentucky, further driving the Commonwealth's technological progress and economic development.

Workforce Development Programs:

We support the reauthorization of WIOA with continued focus on business led initiatives, allowing for more flexibility in funding use, use of industry recognized apprenticeship programs and developing benefit off-ramps for those on assistance take entry level jobs or promotions that create barriers to work/promotion. We also support continuing to remove barriers to employment to improve workforce participation.

Roads & Bridges:

We support increasing federal funding for critical regional infrastructure projects that improve connectivity for local communities, such as the BUILD GRANT program.

Airports:

We support passage of an FAA Reauthorization Bill, as well as the associated FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding bills to continue development of the aviation infrastructure needed to support the growth of the region. We support the relocation of the current FAA Air Traffic Control Tower at Blue Grass Airport (LEX) so that the airport can redevelop the passenger Terminal to meet the demands indicated in the most recent airport master plan and investments in the Central KY Regional Airport (CKRA) in Madison County.

Railroads:

We support continuing to have a safe and sustainable rail network across Kentucky, but opposes legislation aimed placing overly burdensome regulations and costly mandates on the network that may divert resources from technology and track infrastructure investments resulting in freight diversion from rail.

Electric Vehicle & Hydrogen Hub Networks:

We support continued focus and investment in Electric Vehicle charging stations and Hydrogen Hubs network infrastructure, especially along interstate corridors in Kentucky for both passenger vehicles and freight movement.

Housing Access & Affordability:

We support Congress taking action on innovative legislative solutions to help address housing access and affordability challenges for the region's workforce. Solutions like The Neighborhood Homes Investment Act would revitalize distressed urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods with federal income tax credits, mobilizing private investment to build and rehabilitate homes for lower- and middle-income homeowners.

Business Site Development:

We support federal funding opportunities that may accelerate the development of more shovel-ready land for job creation, such as the City of Lexington's Legacy Business Park.