

The Lincoln Chamber's key Federal policy objectives for 2022:

CIVILITY AND LEADERSHIP – The Lincoln Chamber calls on all members of the Nebraska delegation to strive to work as leaders seeking solutions to issues and avoid the all-to-common Washington practice of simply seeking to gain political advantage. We firmly believe that our citizens yearn for leaders who understand the value of working to build consensus. We urge all members of the delegation to strive to engage on issues with civility, pragmatism and common sense. We respect our elected leaders for their dedication to public service. We also expect and urge all Nebraskans to engage on public policy issues with the same civility, pragmatism and common sense that we expect from our elected leaders.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY – The Lincoln Chamber will continue to stress the need for federal officials to address entitlement reform and the lack of federal spending discipline. The Lincoln Chamber calls upon all members of our federal delegation to support greater fiscal discipline to create a more competitive climate for private sector job growth. The Covid-19 Pandemic presented the urgent need for immediate government spending without aggressive fiscal discipline over the past several months but as we again look to the private sector to reenergize the economy federal officials will need to be fiscally responsible for the long-term health of our country.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING – The Lincoln Chamber continues to be extremely concerned with how federal bureaucracy increases the time and cost of projects in Lincoln and across the state of Nebraska. We are, however, encouraged by the cooperation NDOT received from the Federal HWY Administration after our state legislature enacted National Environmental Policy Act assumption legislation with strong backing from the Lincoln Chamber. We also are encouraged by President Biden's interest in finding solutions for our infrastructure needs. The Lincoln Chamber worked cooperatively with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, our delegation of federal officials, and other organizations & coalitions to support passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA). We are committed to continuing our work to develop and advance solutions and look forward to working with state and local officials on implementation of the IIJA.

RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – The Lincoln Chamber will place strong emphasis on supporting research-related federal requests that align with the strategic plan adopted by the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. Capitalizing on opportunities for public/private partnerships that leverage such research to help create high-quality jobs and build our innovation capacity is essential to Nebraska's growth. The Lincoln Chamber will work cooperatively with the University of Nebraska, the Vision Lincoln group and other organizations & coalitions to support Research & Economic Development and strengthen our STEM ecosystem.

ENERGY POLICY – The Lincoln Chamber believes our economic future and competitive position are closely tied to our national energy policy. Federal policy initiatives should support: 1) Agriculture's vital role in developing sustainable energy; 2) Market-based, long-term plans to create more available and affordable energy; 3) All of our domestic energy resources in a true "all-of-the-above" energy strategy; 4) Thorough analysis of costs and benefits that account for the cascading impacts of regulation; 5) Inclusive and robust rulemaking that takes the time to get rules and regulations right; and, 6) Rational & economic-based approaches on energy incentives. Action on Climate Change will require collaboration among all stakeholders. Inaction is not a viable option, and we believe business can and should play an important role in developing innovations to reduce greenhouse gases. Collaboration will be key in the effort to forge solutions that improve our environment and grow our economy.

IMMIGRATION REFORM – The rhetoric around the important issue of immigration reform must be dialed back on all sides. The Lincoln Chamber believes it is absolutely essential for our citizens and our elected officials to confront difficult and complex immigration issues. Immigration policies encompass incredibly important economic issues. Immigration and citizenship issues are deeply tied to societal values, national security issues, and our moral development as a nation of immigrants. The Lincoln Chamber will always seek a better understanding of perspectives on this complex issue and will provide constructive input from a business perspective. This issue must be addressed on a bi-partisan basis and it must be addressed now. The Chamber strongly believes that our nation and our state must continue as “welcoming economies” that invite diversity and inclusion.

TRADE – Increased trade will play an important role in America’s economic recovery and growth. From a Nebraska perspective, trade also is a major boost for both our agriculture and manufacturing sectors. With the adoption of the USMCA trade agreement and other recent positive developments, we urge our delegation to continue bi-partisan efforts on trade promotion.

Adopted: February 10, 2022.