

The Lincoln Chamber's key Federal Policy Objectives for 2026:

**NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITIES** – The Lincoln Chamber is ready and open to work with partners in Lincoln and across the state on opportunities that arise at the federal level. Our federal delegation of lawmakers is as cohesive as we have seen, and they serve on committees with jurisdiction over subject matter important to the economic vitality of Nebraska. The Lincoln Chamber welcomes the new opportunities that come with change and embraces the opportunity for new partnerships. Enacting a Farm Bill 2.0 remains important to Agri-business across Nebraska and we stand with farm groups in support of what is good for Nebraska. A new Highway Bill will also be very important to Nebraska's economic growth. We will work to strengthen the connections between our federal delegation and our members, increasing opportunities for better understanding of priorities for our community and state.

**CIVILITY & LEADERSHIP** – The Lincoln Chamber calls on all members of the Nebraska delegation to strive to work as leaders seeking solutions on important issues. We firmly believe that our citizens yearn for leaders who understand the value of working to build consensus. We urge all members to strive to engage on issues with civility, pragmatism, and common sense. We respect our elected leaders for their legislative expertise and dedication to public service. Additionally, we urge all Nebraskans to engage on public policy issues with the same civility, pragmatism, and common sense we expect from our elected leaders.

**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 to 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.

**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. We call upon all members of the Nebraska delegation to support greater fiscal discipline to create a more competitive climate for private sector job growth. As we again look to the private sector to reinvigorate the economy, federal officials need to be fiscally responsible for the long-term health of our country.

**IMMIGRATION REFORM** – The Lincoln Chamber believes reform of the legal immigration system is essential to meet the workforce needs of our state and country. The Lincoln Chamber recognizes that such efforts will require citizens and elected officials to confront difficult and complex immigration and national security issues. We believe that significant improvements can be made to the immigration system that both expand workforce availability and address national security concerns. The Lincoln Chamber will always seek a better understanding of perspectives on this complex issue and will provide constructive input from a business

perspective – with the goal of workforce development being a guiding principle. This pressing issue must be addressed on a bi-partisan basis, and it must be addressed now. The Lincoln Chamber strongly believes that our nation, state, and local community must be “welcoming economies” to legal immigrants to ensure long-term, sustainable economic growth.

**INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING** – The Lincoln Chamber will continue to develop and advance solutions for a variety of infrastructure challenges. We are committed to working with state and local officials to develop opportunities under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the National Water Resources Development Act, The CHIPS+ Science Act, and others. East Beltway grant opportunities will be of particular importance as we pursue federal funding under our Pathway to the Development of the East Beltway working group.

**RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – The Lincoln Chamber places 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 Amplify Lincoln group, and other higher education partners, organizations, and coalitions to support Research & Economic Development and strengthen our STEM ecosystem. We will advance federal issues that support initiatives such as workforce and workforce related issues (such as housing and childcare) outlined under Vitality Lincoln.

**TRADE** – Increased trade will play an important role in America’s economic growth. From the Nebraska perspective, trade is also a major boost for both our agriculture and manufacturing sectors. We urge our delegation to continue bi-partisan efforts on trade promotion. We will look to our delegation for leadership and information regarding potential negative impacts of possible new tariff regimes. Retaliatory measures by trading partners are often directed at agriculture and manufacturing, which obviously could have very detrimental impacts on the Nebraska economy. Lincoln manufacturing interests strained under negative impacts from new tariff regimes in 2025. This issue will be impacted by U.S. Supreme Court decisions likely to be handed down in early 2026. The Chamber supports Congress asserting more authority on tariff and trade policy to help stabilize and grow international trade, which is so vital to Nebraska. Consistency in trade policy will be vital for a long-term, stable business environment.

**LINCOLN AIRPORT AUTHORITY** – The Lincoln Airport is closely tied to federal policy, funding, and regulation in every aspect of its operation. The Lincoln Airport plays a central role in freight, travel, military operations, and development opportunities in all these aspects. The Lincoln Chamber will work as a close community partner on federal initiatives that enhance the Lincoln Airport in its role as a vital asset for regional growth.

**Approved unanimously by board of directors on December 11th, 2025.**