



The Lincoln Chamber's key Federal policy objectives for 2024:

**CIVILITY & 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 Washington way 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 to strive to engage on issues with civility, pragmatism, and common sense. We respect our elected leaders for their 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 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.

**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 will need to be fiscally responsible for the long-term health of our country.

**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.

**INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING** – The Lincoln Chamber is committed to continuing our work 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 East Beltway Path Forward working group.

**NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITIES** – The Lincoln Chamber will be 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've seen, and they serve on committees with jurisdiction over subject matter important to the economic vitality of Nebraska. The Chamber welcomes the new opportunities that come with change and embraces the opportunity for new partnerships. Enacting a new Farm Bill in 2024 will be important to Agri-business across Nebraska and we stand with farm groups in support of what is good for Nebraska. Extension of important tax legislation also will be important and good for Nebraska. 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.

**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 higher education partners, organizations, and coalitions to support Research & Economic Development and strengthen our STEM ecosystem. We will work to 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 recovery and growth. From a 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.

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

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