

Growing Minnesota through our legislative agenda

By Doug Loon

The Minnesota Legislature is in full swing. The collective voice of the Minnesota Chamber Federation is ready to advance another pro-growth agenda on behalf of businesses of all sizes and types across the state. Our initiatives seek to grow the economy for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

Five major priorities will frame the Minnesota Chamber Federation initiatives at the Legislature:

- Tax competitiveness: Ensure that our tax climate supports long-term success.
- Health care: Ensure quality care is affordable and accessible to all Minnesotans while enhancing the ability of employers to provide coverage to their employees.
- Workplace mandates: Preserve the right of private employers to develop wage and benefit packages that best suit the distinctive needs of companies and employees.
- Transportation: Ensure Minnesota has a safe, reliable and efficient multimodal transportation system through sustained and strategic funding for roads, bridges and transit.
- Workforce development: Accelerate private-sector workforce efforts to help employers attract and retain the skilled workers they need to compete.

Our members along with local chamber partners set the agenda each year for Minnesota employers. The Minnesota Chamber policy team works full-time on behalf of our members. Our work is broad-based at the Capitol – whether advancing pro-business bills and blocking anti-jobs bills at the Legislature, representing your interests before state agencies, or intervening in court cases where outcomes can have a widespread impact on employers.

The Minnesota Chamber is distinctive among our peers across the country with our local chamber network. Through partnerships with local chambers and statewide trade associations, the voice for the business community is bolstered at the Capitol.

We look forward to working with Gov. Walz and the entire Legislature to help them understand how the public policy they craft directly affects all Minnesota businesses, and what is needed to help create economic opportunity for all Minnesotans. Being on the front lines of Minnesota business with our members makes me confident that we can recalibrate Minnesota's economic policy to propel us forward and sustain our cherished quality of life.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce – www.mnchamber.com.