

MANUFACTURERS' AGENDA FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Every day, manufacturers go to work to serve their customers, strengthen their companies and improve their communities. This year, we will head to the polls for another presidential election. We will consider which candidate is best prepared to lead us in the right direction, to improve the quality of life in our country and to protect freedom and opportunity for the next generation.

The National Association of Manufacturers has outlined this agenda which they believe will be an asset to any candidate or officeholder working to chart a new way forward. Manufacturing is the backbone of our economy. We are about more than just machines; our industry is about people and the potential we can unleash. Now is the time to embrace a manufacturing resurgence to protect and preserve American Exceptionalism.

Tax Reform

Inertia on modernizing our nation's tax code is no longer an option. Indeed, standing still is causing us to fall further behind as a nation while other peer nations compete to attract and grow their tax base.

Move past 30 years of outdated tax policies in exchange for a new focus on the economy of today by adopting a modern and competitive territorial international tax system that reflects the realities of our time; Encourage increased capital investment to achieve sustainable economic growth; and Reduce tax rates for companies of all sizes no matter how they are organized.



Trade

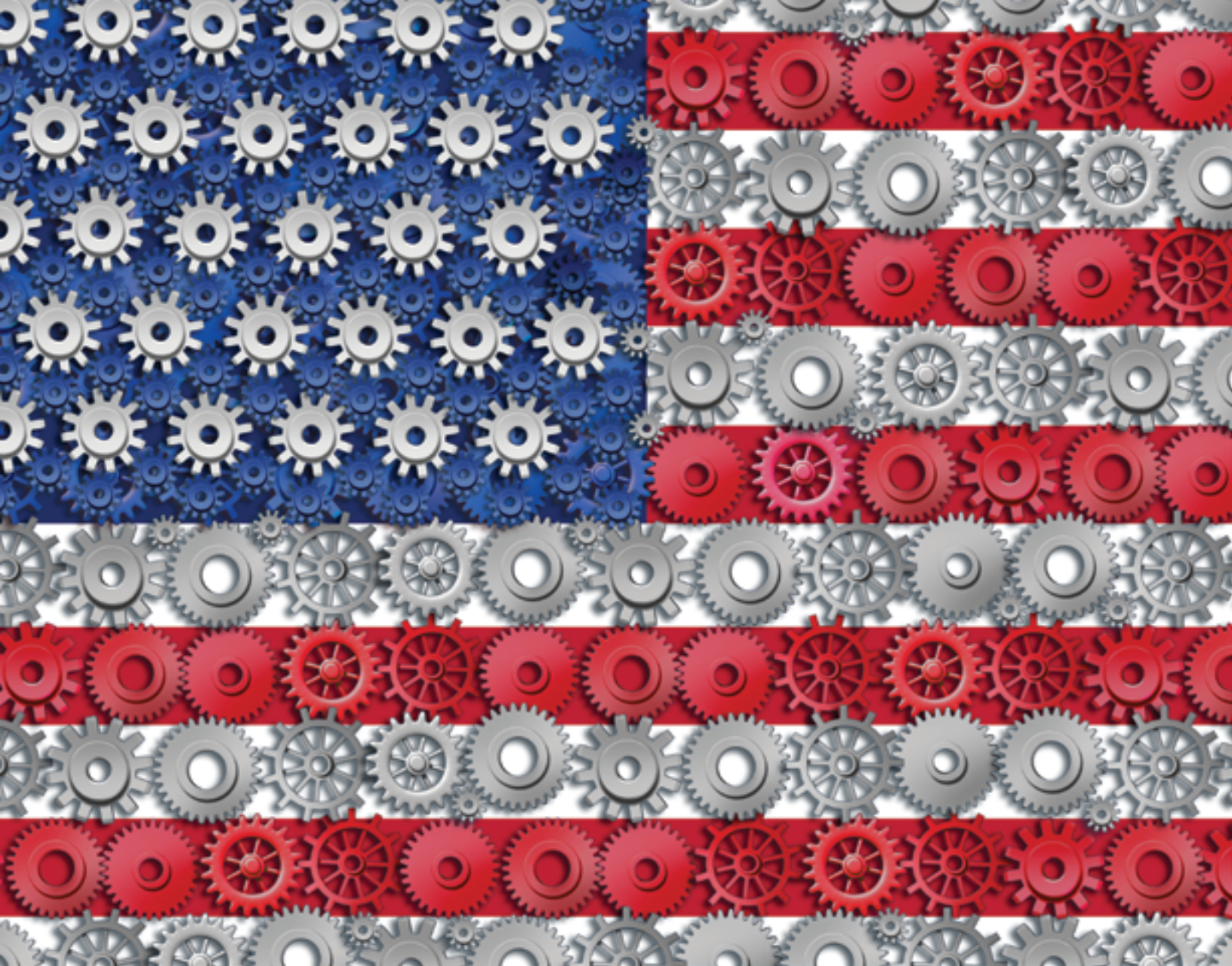
Manufacturers of all sizes can no longer rely on the U.S. market as the primary source of growth. To grow and thrive in today's competitive global markets, manufacturers must increasingly reach new customers and seize new opportunities overseas.

Open markets, break down foreign unfair barriers and improve global standards; **Adopt** custom, financing and export control policies and rules, as well as fully functioning Export-Import Bank financing, that facilitate trade and improve our manufacturers' cost competitiveness in the global economy; and **Enable** the United States to lead by example and enforce global rules.

The United States must ensure that our competitors play by the rules and that our country has the tools to hold other countries accountable to keep the playing field level and fair. To lead effectively, the United States must also abide by its own international obligations.

Energy

Unleashing new and existing technologies to access and deploy a wide array of domestic energy sources was once an unrealized dream that many believed would not be possible in a lifetime. Today, manufacturers utilize and benefit from all forms of energy—oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear and renewables—while making smart investments to become more energy efficient. Recognize the United States is globally unique and has the potential to chart an energy future that



Immigration

Comprehensive immigration reform holds the power to transform not only manufacturing but also our nation and economy to new heights.

Ensure manufacturers reliable access to talented individuals at all skill levels; Offer opportunities to keep talent onshore; Address the estimated 12 million undocumented workers in the United States; Advance a rigorous and fair employment verification system to ensure employers have confidence in hiring workers; and Institute a border security plan that allows for free trade of goods while improving safety and security at all border crossings.

Workforce

The skills gap is widening, and over the next decade, 3.4 million manufacturing jobs will need to be filled.

Organize manufacturers to speak with one voice regarding the workforce needed to sustain and grow manufacturing; Engage and align key stakeholders—community leaders, education institutions and local and state officials—to take action and build momentum; and Build a system that delivers a sustainable pipeline of strong, mid-skilled manufacturing talent.

Healthcare

Escalating health care costs continue to be one of the top concerns for manufacturers. In spite of recently enacted two-year suspensions of the employee benefits tax and the anti-competitive tax on medical devices, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) continues to impact manufacturers by adding costs and making critical health care services and treatments even more expensive for employees of manufacturers. Recent increases in health care premiums have deepened the frustration.

Decrease costs—fees, taxes, administrative paperwork, reporting requirements, benefit mandates and other policies stifle innovation and make it more expensive than necessary for employers to provide health coverage to employees; Encourage flexibility—expanding coverage options and enabling innovative models of care are essential for manufacturers' efforts to maintain a healthy workforce and provide competitive benefits; and Take on the challenge of reforming our medical liability system.

Research, Innovation and Technology

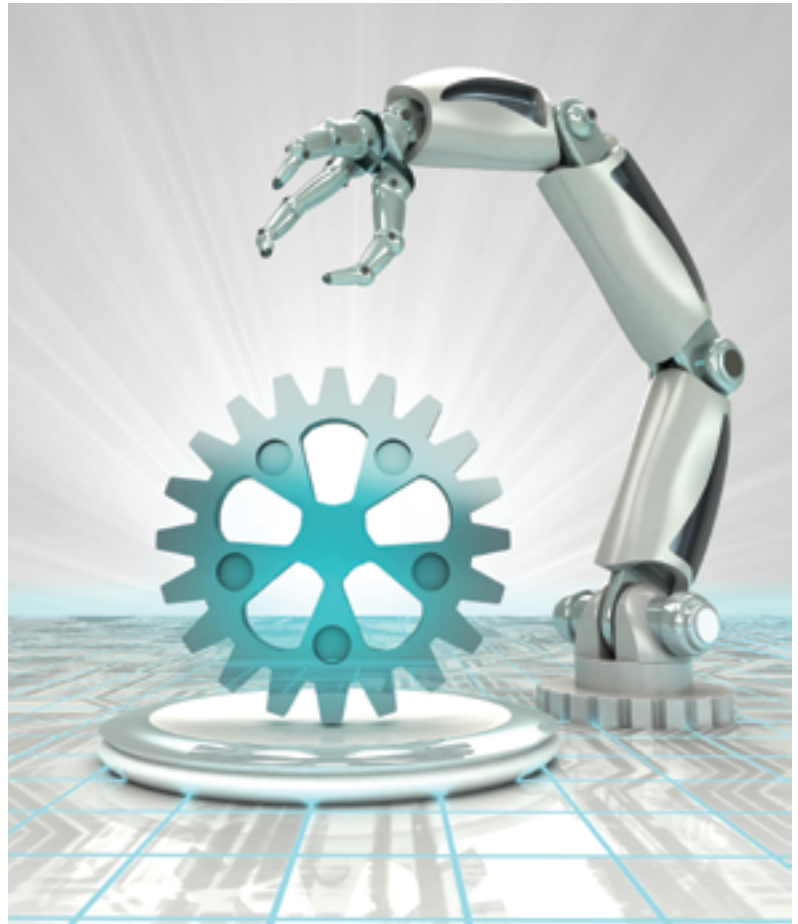
Manufacturers in the United States have created an innovation engine that has delivered new technologies and processes that have brought us energy independence, new lifesaving medicines and medical devices, more efficient automobiles and countless other everyday products that make lives better and secure our nation's global leadership position in manufacturing.

Adopt policies that will attract and retain investment in activities that drive innovation; vigorously protect all forms of manufacturers' intellectual property; Include cybersecurity policies that draw on the best industry practices; and Foster the growth of connected technology across all manufacturing industry segments.

Regulatory and Legal Reform

A more competitive economy demands a reform of the nation's broken legal and regulatory systems.

Approach regulations with a focus on outcomes and relying on best-available science; Improve the quality of regulatory analysis to better inform regulators and agency leaders; Deliver a reformed regulatory system that efficiently meets regulatory objectives and minimizes unnecessary burdens; Seek proven strategies to reduce the abuse of our legal system; and Restore basic fairness in our legal system.



BLEAKLEY PLATT

Bleakley Platt has represented manufacturing and industrial companies of all sizes for more than 75 years, with highly skilled attorneys and a fee structure that makes sense to business owners.

We have represented clients in many different manufacturing sectors, including:

- Aerospace
- Chemicals and Chemical Engineering
- Custom Manufacturing and Packaging
- Energy
- Equipment Manufacturing
- Food and Beverage
- Industrial Machinery
- Pharmaceuticals
- Telecommunications

The Firm's attorneys have experience with the special challenges facing today's manufacturing, technology and industrial companies including:

- Commercial Litigation
- Regulatory Disputes with Municipalities
- Corporate Finance
- Environmental Law
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Intellectual Property
- Real Estate and Land Use
- Tax Certiorari
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- Construction Law

Our attorneys efficiently deliver focused, coordinated client representation and personalized attention that are the hallmarks of Bleakley Platt service.

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