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SENATOR JONI ERNST
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CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

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Finance (Chairman)
Joint Committee on Taxation (Vice Chairman)
Judiciary

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Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources

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Finance Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources and Infrastructure

Finance Subcommittee on Health Care

Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs and Global Competitiveness

Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions and Family Policy

Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

Judiciary Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration

Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

Judiciary Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts

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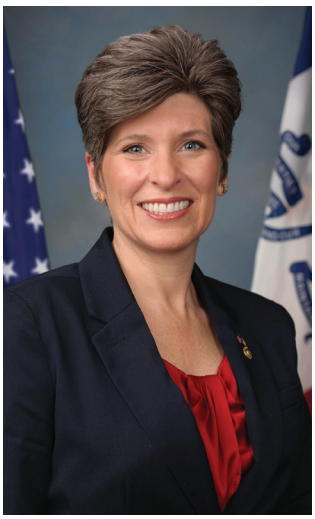
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION



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Armed Services
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Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform
Judiciary
Small Business

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Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agricultural Research and Specialty Crops
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Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities (Chairwoman)
Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Armed Services Subcommittee on SeaPower
Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight
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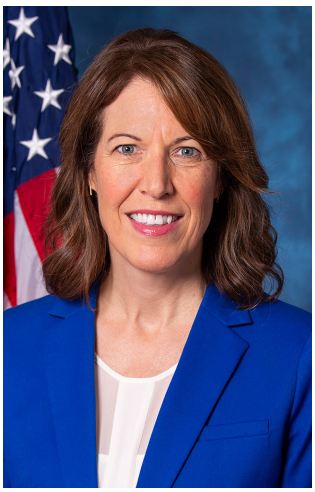
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION



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AGRICULTURE

BIO-BASED RENEWABLE PRODUCTS

The Partnership supports federal programs to promote and assist in research, development and commercialization of biofuels and bio-based materials. Achieving widespread use of biofuels in America will require a range of biofuels from a variety of feedstocks. This will mean expanded production of today's biofuels — ethanol and biodiesel. It also will require consistent Congressional support for research, development, demonstration and commercialization to improve existing biofuels, as well as the next generation of biofuels, including those from cellulosic feedstocks and new fuel such as biobutanol. The Partnership supports incentives for the full range of biofuels and feedstocks. The Partnership also supports incentives to assist with market development, commercialization and/or demonstration projects that bring new non-fuel bio-based products to market that further help reduce dependence on fossil fuels while advancing rural development.

To this end, The Partnership supports:

- Protecting the current Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), provided feedstocks markets can support it.
- Reinstating the biodiesel blenders tax credit, with a multi-year extension.
- Enacting the Domestic Fuels Act to protect retailers from liability.
- Reauthorizing and funding the Farm Bill's Rural Energy for America Program's (REAP) grant initiative for the installation of blender pumps.
- Enacting an Open Fuels Standard to secure true consumer fuel choice.
- Creating a production tax credit for bio-based materials.
- Full funding for loan guarantee and grant programs to accelerate the commercialization of cellulosic biofuels.
- Encouraging investment incentives in infrastructure to support a renewable fuels pipeline.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Partnership supports policies that support the continued development and expansion of biotechnology. The Partnership's objective is to maintain the position of American business as a leader in biotechnology and promote the potential applications of biotechnology in food, feed, textiles, medical applications and manufactured products. Through innovation in agriculture, medicine and manufacturing, biotechnology is having a revolutionary effect on our quality of life. To keep our competitive edge, The Partnership supports the rigorous enforcement of science-based and nationally-uniform federal regulations to sustain public confidence in these products. The Partnership urges the federal government to advocate for science-based regulations with governments around the world. The Partnership also urges the federal government to ensure that innovative and promising biotechnology products are approved in a timely manner.

USDA/NIFA FUNDING

The 2018 Farm Bill included an authorization for a coordinated research initiative known as Genomes to Phenomes. It is widely acknowledged that obtaining phenotype information is now the limiting step in converting genomic information into useful improvements in agriculturally important species. Significant research is needed to fully characterize the phenotypes, which are collectively known as the "phenome" of major crop and livestock species. Understanding the relationships between genes and trait phenotypes will eventually allow farmers to enhance production by identifying optimal combinations of genetics and management practices. This Genomes to Phenomes initiative will develop tools and knowledge to allow for the analysis of phenotypes across a diverse array of agriculturally important species, and help individual farmers make better management decisions and achieve higher stable productivity.

CENTRAL IOWA BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION CENTER

The Partnership supports the creation of an Iowa Bioscience Innovation Center in Central Iowa. The Administration is proposing investing federal funding to create a network of manufacturing innovation institutes across the country. Through executive authority, the Administration plans to launch three new institutes, which are partnerships among business, universities and community colleges and government to develop and build manufacturing technologies and capabilities that will help U.S.-based manufacturers create good jobs. The Partnership recommends that one of these pilot innovation institutes focus on plant science bio-manufacturing.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM (FCIP)

The Partnership opposes cuts to the crop insurance program. Iowa producers rely on the FCIP to provide a safety net and to manage their risk. Across the U.S., more than 290 million acres of farm ground were protected through FCIP in 2016, including 22 million acres in Iowa, protecting $11 billoin worth of crops in the state. In that same year, Iowa famers received $52 million in indemnities for production and/or revenue losses. There also are more than 7,000 agents in the state licensed to sell the policies and another 700 people are employed directly by the companies in underwriting, billing and other jobs. Two of the 15 companies that handle the insurance nationwide are based in Iowa. Accordingly, ensuring a successful crop insurance program is vital to Iowa's economy. With the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, the next step will include the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) negotiating a new Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA). Further cuts on top of the $6 billion cut in the 2011 SRA could detrimentally undermine the products and services available for farmers.

CONSERVATION

The Partnership supports expanding conservation programs that address environmental challenges including soil erosion, water quality and wildlife habitat, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Crucially, conservation programs should empower farmers and land managers to make environmentally-compatible land and water management improvements without worsening the competitive posture of American agriculture. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Continuation and expansion of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which targets funding for USDA conservation cost share programs to high-need areas, leverages funding for greater impact, encourages public-private partnerships across the agriculture sector and engages USDA with private sector agriculture organizations and businesses.

- The precision conservation pilot program, which aims to improve soil health and water quality by targeting conservation practices, increased adoption of innovative and effective conservation practices by agricultural producers and the collection of data to measure the effects of precision conservation practices.

- Sustained levels of funding for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) lab in Ames, which is a necessary program that provides critical research to the agricultural sector and conservation programs. The ARS is the USDA's chief scientific in-house research agency on farming productivity, sustaining natural resources and addressing food safety and nutrition priorities.

- Sustainable agriculture research and a shared vision of support for innovative public research that farmers and the farm economy require to remain vibrant into the future.

- Conservation measures such as crop rotations, no till, cover crops, etc., build soil health and deliver many public benefits including reduced erosion, improved water quality, increased carbon levels in the soil and additional wildlife habitat. Therefore, The Partnership supports continuing the existing law regarding conservation compliance as a requirement to receive federally subsidized crop insurance in the 2018 Farm Bill.

RURAL BROADBAND

The Partnership supports federal investment in rural broadband that will provide farmers and producers the tools necessary to maximize yields, provide efficiencies and empower connectivity to markets throughout the world.

By 2050, the U.S. population is projected to increase to nearly 400 million people, and rising incomes worldwide will translate into historic global growth in food demand. To feed the world, American producers will need to harness innovation to increase output across American farmlands. In addition to increased crop yields, technological innovation can improve crop quality, nutritional value, sustainability and food safety. At the core of these developments that will further grow the rural economy is the expansion of STEM education, research, regulatory modernization and infrastructure. Leveraging these innovations in an increasingly data-driven economy will also require further development of rural data management capabilities.

In today's information-driven global economy, electronic connectivity, or e-connectivity, is not simply an amenity — it has become essential. E-connectivity is more than just connecting households, schools and healthcare centers to each other as well as the rest of the world through high-speed internet. It is also a tool that enables increased productivity for farms and factories. E-connectivity is fundamental for economic development, innovation, advancements in technology, workforce readiness and an improved quality of life. Reliable and affordable high-speed internet e-connectivity will transform rural America as a key catalyst for prosperity.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

TAXES

The Partnership is committed to pro-growth tax policies that preserve America's global competitiveness, and it opposes tax increases that reduce businesses' ability to grow, invest and create jobs.

The Partnership supports the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 as it will better allow the region to compete globally, attract foreign investment, allow American multinational companies to repatriate previously offshored investments and increase capital for investments and job creation in the U.S., including Greater Des Moines (DSM).

That said, analysis shows it will likely have a negative impact on charitable giving. Expanding the charitable deduction to non-itemizers will protect against the unintended consequences that will fall on charitable organizations from the increased standard deduction. The Partnership supports a universal charitable deduction, which will unlock additional charitable giving and recognize the principle that all charitable gifts are analogous, regardless of whether they were given by a large or small donor. It recognizes the long-standing effectiveness of the charitable deduction in encouraging taxpayers to support their communities, build quality of life and strengthen civil society.

Additionally, The Partnership has concerns with changes to the State and Local Tax deductions, commonly referred to as SALT. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 capped the total deduction of SALT at $10,000. Other states have recently experienced a disinvestment and population shift resulting from people leaving the state for better tax climates. Given Iowa's modest population growth and current workforce challenges, any policy that could negatively impact the state's ability to attract and retain a talented workforce should be carefully considered. Therefore, The Partnership does not support the $10,000 limitation on the SALT deduction and requests that Congress revert to the previous provisions regarding SALT deductions.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

The Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 established a new economic tax incentive called Opportunity Zones. The incentive is designed to encourage long-term, private investments in low-income census tracts by providing a federal tax incentive for taxpayers who reinvest unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Funds, which are then invested into Opportunity Zones. Opportunity Funds are specialized tax vehicles dedicated to low-income areas and aimed at spurring investment and entrepreneurialism. Ultimately, this will result in business creation and economic prosperity in areas identified as Opportunity Zones.

The Partnership supports the continuation of Opportunity Zones and plans to work with designated areas throughout DSM. Tracts in Des Moines, Grinnell, Marshalltown, Perry, West Des Moines and Winterset have been designated as Opportunity Zones.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

The Partnership supports the enactment of a credible long-term deficit reduction and balanced budget plan.

The current U.S. national debt has exceeded $22.1 trillion and budget deficits are projected well into the future. While The Partnership is hopeful that tax reform will produce necessary economic growth, the increasing federal budget deficit remains a serious concern and should be methodically reduced through spending restraint and entitlement reform, in addition to increased economic growth. Addressing these challenges by enacting a credible budget plan will boost both short- and long-term economic confidence.

REGULATORY REFORM

The Partnership supports initiatives aimed at reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on the nation's industries, promoting economic growth and job creation and minimizing the impacts of government actions on small businesses.

Furthermore, efforts should be made to eliminate future unnecessary or overly burdensome regulations by amending the process by which these types of regulations have been created in the past.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports:

- Reforming the rulemaking process to make it more transparent, effective and accountable.
- Requiring all federal agencies to ensure all existing and future federal regulations are carefully designed, promulgated and enforced to achieve the intended benefits while minimizing the regulatory burdens on small business, stemming from both individual regulatory mandates as well as the cumulative burdens imposed by additive regulations.
- Requiring environmental regulations to be based on sound science.
- Requiring economic and employment impacts of major rules be independently evaluated and disclosed to the public, thereby ensuring the costs of rules are clear from the beginning.
- Allowing affected members of the public to obtain independent review of agency actions.
- Providing for an up-or-down recorded vote by Congress for regulations deemed to have a major impact on jobs.
- Providing for independent periodic review of current regulations and sunsetting those deemed ineffective or unnecessary.
- Strengthening the efforts of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy to ensure the interests of small businesses are fully considered when agencies begin crafting new regulations. The Office of Advocacy at the U.S. SBA plays a vital role in ensuring that federal agencies adequately consider how their policies impact America's small businesses.
- Legislation replacing single-director governance of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) with a five-member commission. Prudential banking regulators should actively participate in the consumer

protection rule-writing process and be mindful to not implement unnecessary requirements that could prevent community banks from serving important needs of customers. The Partnership recognizes the appointment of new experts from outside the federal government to the Consumer Advisory Board, Community Bank Advisory Council and Credit Union Advisory Council in September 2018 as a step in the right direction.

INSURANCE REGULATION

State-based insurance regulation has helped create the largest, most competitive insurance system in the world, including comprehensive consumer protections and the most transparent and inclusive procedures. In recognition of this, Congress reaffirmed the primacy of state regulation in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, even as a new Federal Insurance Office was created with the goal of strengthening the U.S. voice internationally. Meanwhile, international bank regulators have sought to impose global one-size-fits-all rules that are often inconsistent with effective state-based regulation. The U.S. must resist this notion in international regulatory discussions. Its voice in such discussions could be strengthened by greater communication between federal officials (U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve System) and experienced insurance state regulators. Unfortunately, there is almost no transparency or accountability related to the activities of these international regulators and the U.S. representatives at these meetings.

Domestically, it is critical to protect the fundamental principles that have governed the highly effective U.S. insurance system for decades from undue interference. Specifically, Congress should preserve and protect state-based regulatory standards that assure risk-based pricing. Congress should additionally act to maintain and improve partnerships with the private insurance market, including flood insurance and terrorism risk financing.

Additionally, The Partnership asks Congress to exercise oversight over the activities of federal agencies to ensure insurance regulatory powers remain reserved to the states. The Partnership further asks Congress to encourage regular consultation between state and federal officials on insurance matters and to direct U.S. representatives to demand more transparency and accountability in international standard setting.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Small business is the backbone of the American economy, and the federal government should help drive innovation and create more jobs. Because small business ownership is the path to prosperity for many Americans, small disadvantaged businesses should be nurtured. Small businesses employ 50 percent of all private sector employees and have generated 60-to-80 percent of net new jobs annually during the last decade, according to the SBA.

The Partnership supports continued funding for:

- The SBA‘s efforts to provide technical and financial assistance and access to capital for small businesses.
- The Office of Small Business Development Center network.
- The Manufacturing Extension Program.

- The Minority Business Development Agency.
- The Small Business Investment Company Program.
- The State Small Business Credit Initiative.

Further, The Partnership supports streamlining the government procurement process and increasing business opportunities for the private sector in the federal market.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports sustained federally funded fundamental research and the development and deployment of advanced technologies.

Investments should be made in areas that are critical to the nation's ability to innovate, compete and grow the economy, particularly scientific research, which generates the innovations and discoveries that produce new products and new industries. The Partnership encourages the federal government and agencies such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology to promote research and development.

Federally funded university research is a powerful economic engine, creating important basic and applied discoveries that American industry uses to develop products and processes that keep the nation healthy, safe and prosperous. This research is especially critical in this time of heightened external threats. American superiority in cybersecurity and military technology depends on the scientific advances by university faculty funded through federal research grants. The Partnership supports expanding research grants to universities through the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation and other federal basic and applied research providers to help ensure a strong and healthy nation.

The Partnership supports continued adequate funding to support research and development efforts in the region, including at the corporate level, but specifically at Iowa State University. Stable and sustained growth in scientific research funding is essential to efforts that address many of the fundamental issues society faces, such as energy, national security and the continuing search for new vaccines and cures for disease.

The Partnership specifically supports continued investment of the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. This is critical as energy costs and demand continues to increase globally.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT

The Partnership supports legislation permanently extending and perhaps expanding the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program to spur new investment and economic development in disadvantaged communities. Currently, this program is only authorized through 2019.

The NMTC has been an essential component of numerous job creation projects in severely distressed areas of our state, including rural and urban areas of DSM. According to the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition, since 2003 a total of 44 Iowa businesses and economic revitalization projects have received financing through this program. Furthermore, nearly $390 million in NMTC allocation leveraged an additional $261.6 million from other sources for a total of $650.9 million in project investments.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

The Partnership supports continued U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields funding for sites in DSM. Brownfield sites provide a significant challenge and negative economic impact to distressed urban and rural communities by allowing the continuation of blight. These sites can be successfully redeveloped and put back into active uses that are beneficial to both the local community and the business sector. Federal investments in the Brownfields program have yielded 10 times the economic return, making the program a proven and critical economic stimulus tool.

FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

The Partnership supports the preservation of historic structures, which stimulate Downtown housing, business expansion and neighborhood revitalization. Accordingly, The Partnership supports the continued level of investment through the Federal Historic Tax Incentives program and the following suggested amendments:

- Raising the credit from 20 percent to 30 percent for projects with Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures of less than $5 million.
- Restoring the credit payback to a lump sum as opposed to paying it back over a five-year period, which has an adverse effect on the value of the credit to developers.
- Providing an additional 2 percent credit if the building increases its energy efficiency by 30 percent or more in an effort to promote energy-efficiency and cost-savings.
- Removing a provision in the Internal Revenue Code that inhibits the ability of nonprofit organizations from undertaking the most difficult projects in communities in greatest need.
- Eliminating the federal taxation of the proceeds of state credits transferred through partnerships and sold as state tax certificates.
- Redefining "old" buildings by removing the arbitrary date of 1936, which will allow many structures that are currently ineligible to be eligible.

MUNICIPAL AND PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND FINANCING

The Partnership supports maintaining the ability of state and local governments to utilize tax-exempt bonds. State and local governments access the tax-exempt bond market to fund critical infrastructure, and elimination or limitations on the exclusion of interest thereon from federal tax will increase costs and could result in decreased investment in needed areas. The Partnership also supports re-instituting the ability of state and local governments to advance refund outstanding tax-exempt bonds.

APE COGNITION AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

The Partnership supports the Ape Cognition and Conservation Initiative (ACCI) request to National Institutes of Health (NIH) that it be certified to allow chimpanzees to be retired at this facility.

As NIH continues to minimize the use of chimpanzees as a model for the study of some human diseases, it will continue to permit behavioral, cognitive and genetic studies that are noninvasive and that fit comfortably within the parameters of the Institute of Medicine report. The staff at the ACCI has worked extensively with chimpanzees and bonobos since 1972 and specializes in great apes. The board of ACCI is composed of specialists in primate behavior and genetics from around the world. Currently, there is only one Federal Sanctuary that houses 200 chimpanzees, while listing its eventual capacity at close to 300 individuals. More than 400 chimpanzees will potentially need new enclosures as biomedical facilities scale back research programs under the federal mandate to retire many of the NIH-owned chimpanzees.

ENERGY

COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

Energy is essential to a strong economy, and Greater Des Moines (DSM) has long enjoyed low energy prices that have provided a competitive advantage to the region. Iowa is a leader in renewable energy production, including wind and biofuels, which has provided significant economic benefits to the state and DSM. Reliable and affordable energy are essential to running a business and fueling economic growth and competitiveness. To meet future energy demand in an environmentally responsible manner, the U.S. needs a comprehensive energy policy that ensures the development and deployment of affordable, reliable energy supplies, expands alternative energy sources, increases energy efficiency, lessens dependence on foreign energy supplies and creates jobs.

To this end, The Partnership supports:

- Tax incentives or direct investment in support of continued research to develop and expand wind, solar, hydrogen, geothermal, nuclear, biofuels and other low carbon and renewable forms of energy.
- Further extending the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit, a predictable, stable, pro-growth tax policy that will help ensure investment in wind development at levels needed to meet environmental goals. More than 31 percent of the electricity produced in Iowa last year came from wind; the highest percentage of any state. Furthermore, Iowa ranks second, behind only Texas, in total installed wind capacity. The wind energy industry in Iowa supports approximately 7,000 direct and indirect jobs and is expected to provide more than $1.5 billion in lease payments to landowners and property tax payments to communities over the next 30 years.
- Extending the Solar Investment Tax Credit, which will lead to sustained growth in the U.S. solar industry.
- Modernizing, expanding and protecting energy infrastructure necessary to generate, store, transmit and transport energy. This includes power plants, pipelines, refineries, transmission lines and the electrical grid.
- Tax incentives and research and development for energy producers to develop the necessary infrastructure for the use of renewable biomass fuel, including crop residue, wood waste and industrial and commercial waste that reduces landfill capacity.
- The continuation of Landfill Gas (LFG) tax credits.
- Tax incentives and research and development to develop technology for electric vehicles, transportation electrification and battery and electric drive components.
- Tax incentives and research and development that encourage the entrepreneurial development of energy-efficient products, designs, processes and other green innovation.
- Tax incentives for commercial, industrial and residential green building and redevelopment programs that promote and encourage energy efficiency and other environmentally friendly practices.

- All efforts to reduce carbon emissions that are done in a common-sense manner, promote new technologies and efficiencies, recognize the problem is international in scope, are not designed to favor some regions of the country at the expense of others and do not cause undue harm to the U.S. economy.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

The Partnership supports meaningful reform of the Social Security system that addresses long-term solvency.

The Social Security system is under considerable strain from shifting demographic patterns in the U.S. Social Security expenditures exceeded the program's non-interest income in 2010 for the first time since 1983. If no changes are made, the Congressional Budget Office anticipates that the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted by 2036. Thereafter, tax income would be sufficient to pay only about three-quarters of scheduled benefits through 2085, as there will be a large gap between outlays and revenues because of a booming retirement population and an employee base that is growing more slowly. The system should be substantially revamped to avoid this fiscal crisis and maintain its long-term solvency and viability. The earlier these challenges are faced, the less drastic and divisive the solutions will be. Reform efforts should avoid unnecessary tax increases or benefit cuts.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The Partnership supports the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) because it rewards work and helps to reduce poverty in communities. According to the United Way of Central Iowa, nearly 40 percent of Iowa families with children do not earn enough to provide for a basic standard of living without public assistance, despite one or more full-time workers in the family. The EITC supports working families, who in turn spend income in Iowa communities.

PENSIONS

As the Baby Boomers are retiring at a rate of approximately 10,000 per day, it is increasingly important to ensure the strength of the private retirement plan system. Millions of retired Americans rely on private pensions and employer-sponsored retirement savings as their most important source of income after Social Security. Accordingly, The Partnership supports the following pension reforms:

- Preserve and enhance existing tax incentives and contribution limits and increase the limit for catch-up contributions. The Partnership opposes dollar caps on retirement savings assets and the certain proposal to limit the tax rate at which upper-income taxpayers can use itemized deductions and other tax preferences to reduce tax liability to a maximum of 28 percent.

- Ensure the viability of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) through the use of reasonable assumptions. Also, The Partnership opposes delegating to the PBGC Board the authority to independently set the level of premiums, as well as the authority to factor into premium levels the risk that the plans pose to retirees and to the PBGC.

- Legislation that encourages greater adoption of automatic enrollment and escalation of safe harbor designs among small- and mid-size employers by reducing bureaucracy and administrative requirements and simplifying plan design requirements.

- Legislation that promotes useful decumulation strategies pertaining to annuities, long-term care insurance and other products without overly burdening plan sponsors.

- Reforms of government regulations that achieve fewer adverse consequences for jobs, innovation and overall competitiveness.

EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO STOCK OPTIONS

In 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued a rule called FAS 123 which requires companies to account for stock options as if a cash expense, therefore reducing the net income of the company. The rule also requires stock options to be recognized as more shares outstanding, thus diluting share values for the company's existing stockholders. As a result of this duplicate cost, it became more expensive for companies to offer this opportunity to employees earning less than $100,000 annually.

The Partnership supports a Congressional override of FAS 123, so that it is more affordable for companies to allow employees whose cash compensation is less than $100,000 per year to have access to stock options, while having no impact on those employees earning in excess of that amount.

FLOOD MITIGATION, WATER TRAILS AND WATER QUALITY

The Partnership supports policies and funding that holistically restore and maintain rivers, streams and lakes that provide adventures and peaceful experiences, mitigate the negative impacts of flooding, decrease streambank erosion and improve water quality for drinking and recreation.

Iowa's flood and water quality challenges have received much attention in recent years. From flash flooding caused by record-breaking rain events, to beach closings due to cyanobacteria to high nitrate levels in drinking water, addressing these challenges will take a collaborative approach amongst both urban and rural communities. The Partnership supports federal investments in regional and local flood mitigation strategies including buyouts, structural flood protection, green infrastructure programs and comprehensive long-term water quantity programs. The Partnership further supports dedicated funding to address the connections between water quality and public health.

Additionally, The Partnership supports the enactment of legislation and the implementation of policy initiatives that will modernize the nation's critically important inland waterway lock and dam infrastructure, including programs within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

WATER TRAILS AND HEALTHY RIVERS, LAKES AND STREAMS

The Partnership supports:

- Building a regionally connected system of natural resource areas and corridors to support the Greater Des Moines Water Trails Project. The State of Iowa has a strong legacy of investing in Iowa's soil and water infrastructure — an infrastructure that is critically important to the state's wealth and prosperity. In the spring of 2018, business and community leaders from DSM unveiled an ambitious water trails plan to bring recreation to Downtown DSM's rivers and create a network of 80 water trails across the region. As one of many organizations working on the project, The Partnership views the primary pathway to success as a public-private investment. With private dollars from individuals and businesses already committed, The Partnership supports allocating adequate and permanent funding sources to meet the infrastructure needs of the project. Funding options include partnering with federal agencies, nonprofits and other granting authorities to make the project a reality.

- Policy, practices and funding opportunities for progress toward Iowa's share of the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force Interim Target of 20 percent reduction of total nitrogen and phosphorus load by 2025 and 45 percent reduction in total nitrogen and phosphorus load by 2035.

- Securing dedicated federal funding for the Raccoon River Watershed. The watershed provides drinking water to 500,000 of the region's residents.

- A "culture of measurement" of water quality, including the establishment of measuring and monitoring tools that assist in quantifying environmental benefits of practices and policies.

- Funding and support of Watershed Management Authorities and the work executed to develop and implement comprehensive watershed management plans across Iowa.

FLOOD MITGATION ON THE DES MOINES RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

Flooding has always been a reality in the region, and it is likely that future flood events will be more severe and frequent due to extreme weather events and the introduction of more impermeable surfaces in our watersheds. The Partnership supports flood mitigation policies across federal agencies that help states, counties and municipalities manage their changing flood risks. Strategies may include targeted buyouts of repeatedly flooded properties and investments in upstream infrastructure that holds and slows flood waters.

The Partnership will continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Congress, the City of Des Moines (the City) and other partners to identify and secure timely approvals required to address flood control and mitigation on the Des Moines River and its tributaries.

In response to the USACE Des Moines River Regulated Flow Frequency Study issued in January 2011, the City has pursued analysis and hydraulic modeling to propose improvements to the City's flood protection system that will address the increased flood risk communicated to the City and to provide reliable protection against a 100-year flood with a FEMA-accredited flood protection system. Since 2011, the City has taken significant steps in addressing critical infrastructure needs to address flood mitigation and protection.

To further enhance the efforts of multiple cities and government agencies in the region, The Partnership supports:

- Prioritizing the use of projects using green infrastructure techniques (restored wetlands, restored oxbows, etc.) installed upstream to slow the flow in the upper reaches of the watershed, resulting in lower peaks in flood events in the lower watershed near Des Moines.

- Incentivizing the use of farmland management practices that reduce runoff at its origin (tree intercropping, no till practices, perennial biomass, afforestation, managed grazing, etc.).

- Coordinated timely actions with USACE to obtain the necessary approvals, including Section 408 and actions related to the Federal Southeast Des Moines levee, to reduce flood risk in the City. This may include any agreements necessary to receive credit for future matching fund requirements once future federal funding is authorized.

- Resolution of outstanding issues related to the 1987 Consent to Easement Structure between the City and USACE that involve a portion of the Southeast Des Moines Levee that was relocated in the late 1980s to accommodate the construction of wastewater treatment facilities.

- Request of federal funding and determination of required actions to make improvements to the USACE Red Rock Remedial Levee in the southeast Des Moines Levee system to satisfy FEMA accreditation requirements.

HEALTH CARE

The Partnership recognizes that overall health and wellness for consumers is crucial for our society and business climate. As such, The Partnership endorses a health care agenda that supports health care providers, educators and organizations that comprise a large and important part of Iowa's economy. The Partnership strives to support the entire region with a health care agenda, and this presents additional challenges, including financial and access issues to those in more rural settings. In addition, The Partnership further recognizes the ever-increasing cost of health care for businesses and supports efforts to reduce the overall cost while maintaining a strong and vibrant health care system that meets the needs of employees and consumers.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

There are a number of opportunities currently being pursued at the federal level to drive the costs of prescription drugs down and make them more affordable for patients. The Partnership supports Congressional efforts to lower drug costs and provide a pathway for generic versions of brand name drugs and biosimilars to enter the marketplace.

The Partnership supports exploring the safe importation of prescription drugs from Canada as a potential option to increase the supply of prescription drugs and lower costs. Allowing Americans to legally access prescription drugs from outside the U.S. would provide competition in the marketplace and help patients get medications currently in short supply. Promoting transparency so patients have information on the cost of prescription drugs to inform their choices is another option to address high costs.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Congress and the Administration are considering how to create a viable and functional health insurance market where individuals can buy affordable insurance that meets their needs. As Congress tackles these complex issues, The Partnership believes that sound health care policy that offers affordable options must be based on several principles:

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA), with its strong consumer protections, including prohibitions on preexisting condition exclusions, no annual or lifetime dollar limits on coverage and allowing young adults to stay on parents' health plans until age 26, provides a good option for many Iowans, particularly those who receive federal subsidies to make ACA-compliant plans affordable.

- Individuals who have and like pre-ACA coverage, known as grandfathered and grandmothered plans, can keep them.

- A stable and broad insurance pool is essential for the long-term viability of the health insurance market. Congress and the Administration must adopt strong incentives for continuous coverage so that people do not buy health insurance only when there is an illness.

- The government must provide a reasonable level of premium assistance for people who cannot afford health care. Premium assistance and insurance rating rules must be designed to ensure that young and healthy people participate in the insurance market.

- Because the costs for serious medical conditions are growing rapidly, a relatively small number of severely sick people significantly drive up premium costs for everyone. Programs such as high-risk pools or reinsurance help address these catastrophic costs and lower premiums.
- States should return to the traditional role of being the primary regulators of the health insurance market.
- States need increased flexibility to drive innovation that allows people to purchase health coverage they want and can afford, subject to oversight by state legislatures and regulators.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Partnership appreciates the priority expressed by our congressional leaders for innovative solutions to our increasing mental health needs as a community.

The Partnership supports legislation to expand programs and funding for mental health services, especially those that are community-based, to ensure access to coordinated, holistic care. The Partnership further supports action to improve mental health services and ensure parity within the Medicaid and Medicare programs by enacting critical reforms to allow for same-day and same-location mental health and primary care services and to repeal the current Medicaid exclusion on inpatient psychiatric care for certain individuals. Additionally, The Partnership supports efforts to strengthen mental health parity and provide incentives to states to help integrate mental and physical health services.

PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

The Partnership recognizes the unique role that public health plays in community and economic development efforts. Therefore, The Partnership supports the establishment of a free immunization program for uninsured adults, along the lines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Vaccine for Children Program. Additionally, The Partnership supports evidence-based policies and initiatives to decrease the misuse of opioids and improve access to effective treatment to those addicted.

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

The Partnership supports expanded funding for federal programs supporting Graduate Medical Education (GME), including both Direct GME and Indirect Medical Education payments. The Partnership further supports resources to be made available to allow Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to consider exceptions for funding GME positions beyond the cap in areas with demonstrable physician shortages for particular specialties, e.g. Psychiatry, Primary Care Specialties, OB/GYN and General Surgery.

With a real shortage of OB/GYN physicians in rural Iowa communities, many community hospitals are at risk of closing. Health care leaders in DSM are looking at ways to increase the number of residency programs to support those graduates interested in staying in Iowa and serving the rural and urban needs of fetal maternal care. As Iowa is currently 49 out of 50 in the number of specialists in this field and with only one OB/GYN in the State of Iowa at the University of Iowa, The Partnership seeks support of Congress for approaches to increase residency programs in this field for those interested in staying in Iowa to serve this important need.

MEDICAID

Medicaid expansion has provided thousands of lower income Iowans with access to health care. Congress should carefully consider changes to the Medicaid program to make sure that low-income persons continue to receive coverage.

MEDICARE

The Partnership supports improving fairness and equity in Medicare payments between geographical areas and supports the implementation of new reimbursement models, such as the shared savings program, that reward quality and efficiency, not quantity of services. Specifically, The Partnership supports eliminating the inaccuracies and inequities in the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) geographic adjusters to Medicare payment for physicians and using contemporary market or actual cost data for physicians.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Iowan families and communities have been devastated at the impact opioids have had on our community and The Partnership is seeking solutions to address this epidemic. The Partnership appreciates the bipartisan support Congress has received for prevention and treatment of substance use disorder (SUD). The Partnership supports initiatives that require the Drug Enforcement Administration to use data to track and prevent the diversion of prescription opioids into illegal sales, and to provide education and training for health care providers to become knowledgeable of best practices when prescribing controlled substances to address the opioid abuse, overdose deaths and public health.

SPECIALIZED PEDIATRIC MEDICAL CARE

Children with complex medical conditions receive better results with highly coordinated care. Nearly two-thirds of the three million children with complex medical conditions are covered by Medicaid, representing close to 40 percent of Medicaid costs for children. These children have illnesses and conditions including cancer, congenital heart disease, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome and chronic health challenges from premature birth, which often require them to travel to another state to find treatment. The Partnership supports legislation that would make it possible for health care providers to coordinate care, lower costs and improve quality outcomes for children with complex medical conditions on Medicaid who require specialized care.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Partnership is acutely aware of the critical need to be prepared for, respond to and recover from both natural and human-caused disasters and understands that government cannot carry this burden without active involvement of the private sector. It is imperative that businesses have access to the necessary tools and information for maintaining continuity in the event of a disaster. It is also important for the business community to work with governments at all levels to foster active public-private partnerships and develop strategies to protect the nation's critical infrastructure, facilitate information sharing and spur public-private engagement to effectively manage all types of hazards. The Partnership will continue to support the efforts of and engage with the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, the U.S. Chamber National Security Task Force, Emergency Preparedness Department and others to continue to develop public-private partnerships with the federal, state and local governments to enhance homeland security and emergency preparedness efforts.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

In 2016, the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) approved the Army National Guard (ARNG) enhanced readiness concept. Key to this concept was the enhanced readiness of all ARNG Armored Brigade Combat Teams and Striker Brigade Combat Teams. In order to support this intensified mission, the ARNG Sustainment Training Center, located at Camp Dodge, will substantially increase capacity and training effectiveness with the addition of key Administrative and Training facilities at a cost of $32 million in Military Construction.

The Partnership supports the Adjutant General's requirement for key infrastructure at Camp Dodge in order to enhance readiness for logistic units in support of Army National Guard Brigade Combat Teams.

By providing enhanced training and greater unity throughput, these facilities will directly support the enhanced readiness of the ARNG, the Army and the security of the U.S.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Partnership supports adding both equipment and manpower to the 132d Wing to increase support to government and private emergency management response. One such capability would include basing the MQ-9 Reaper aircraft at the Des Moines International Airport to provide unmatched disaster assessment and awareness to responders. This capability would complement the existing equipment and training that allow the 132d Wing to provide support in the areas of cyber incident response, debris clearance, fatality search and recovery, urban environment search and rescue, command and control support, mobile kitchen and meal support, civil disturbance support and incident assessment through the use of the RC-26 Metroliner aircraft and imagery analysis.

At an FY 2017 economic impact of $93.1 million through payroll, expenditures, education and jobs that benefit DSM and the State of Iowa, The Partnership values the 132d Wing and its contributions to the U.S.

HOUSING

FEDERAL HOUSING

The Partnership recognizes and respects the essential federal role in housing and community development and encourages elected officials to protect and adequately fund essential programs that make housing affordable for all Greater Des Moines (DSM) households.

Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Continued funding for and flexible use of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) main economic revitalization program.
- Homeownership incentives in the recently revised tax code, specifically the deductions for mortgage interest and local property taxes.
- Tax credits and other provisions that when leveraged with other resources can be used to reduce the cost of construction and rehabilitation of housing and require a period of guaranteed affordability for low income owners and tenants.
- Resources and programming to address the nearly 5,000 people who experienced homelessness in Polk County in 2018. Local programs include permanent supportive housing, which often collaborate with private landlords and a variety of supportive, health and mental health organizations.
- Increases in funding for the programs administered by the local Public Housing Authority, simplification of federal regulations, allowing the Public Housing Authority to create more local policies to support the needs of the community and the expansion of partnership programs with local service providers.
- Expansion of the Moving to Work Program.
- Funding for the Family Self-Sufficiency program to link HUD assisted households with job training, child care, transportation, financial literacy and other supportive services and help build assets through interest-bearing escrow accounts.
- Expanding funding and criteria for Healthy Homes to allow remediation of health hazards independent of lead remediation.
- Success for low-to-moderate-income households depends on many federal, state and local resources. In order to improve outcomes for these individuals and families The Partnership supports efforts that link housing resources to those resources that promote health, education and workforce readiness.

LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Over 9,200 extremely low-income households in DSM spend more than half of monthly income on rent. With that cost burden, there is little left for the other necessities of life, such as food, health care, education and transportation to employment. The implications on the lives of low-income renters are staggering and extend well beyond housing.

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) Program is the nation's most successful tool for encouraging private investment in the production and preservation of affordable rental housing. Since its creation in 1986, the Housing Credit has financed nearly 3 million affordable rental units, providing homes to roughly 6.5 million low-income households while transferring risk from the government to the private sector. The Partnership encourages additional action to further expand the Housing Credit to help address Iowa's affordable and workforce housing needs.

NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

The National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) currently provides Iowa with $3 million to be used for providing rental housing for Extremely Low-Income households. These funds complement the $6 million State Housing Trust Fund allocation from the Iowa Legislature. These funds are critical to helping house a growing service workforce that is currently underserved and cost burdened.

The Partnership supports funding of the NHTF from a percentage of the profits of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and also supports substituting a similar funding stream in the event housing finance reform replaces these government-sponsored organizations.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) serves as the only federal block grant program for state and local governments designed exclusively to produce affordable housing for low-income families. Since 1990, the HOME program has created more than 1.3 million affordable homes and helped provide direct rental assistance to over 316,000 low-income families. HOME is also cost effective — according to HUD data, each HOME dollar leverages more than four dollars in additional public and private resources. The need for affordable housing has never been greater. The Partnership urges a FY2020 appropriation of $1.5 billion for the HOME program (matching FY2018 levels).

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

The funding for Housing Assistance Payments (HAP), also known as Housing Choice Vouchers, does not meet the increasing needs for affordable housing in DSM. HAP funding increases are only based on utilization from the prior year and an inflation factor set by HUD. The result is not having the funding to support increasing the number of Voucher participants. Program waiting lists remain long and are costly to manage and maintain. Therefore, The Partnership supports increased HAP funding.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency has not been adequately funded over the past several years. New regulations combined with a lower than sufficient proration of funds has significantly reduced administrative budgets and led to numerous staffing reductions, restructuring of divisions and the streamlining of internal procedures. Therefore, The Partnership supports increased administrative fees.

AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule (AFFH) helps communities better understand and meet their fair housing obligations and promotes housing choice. By expanding housing choice, households find options to live in areas, usually closer to jobs, that allow for everyone to enjoy the opportunities of a high quality of life in DSM. This has the effect of improving the sustainability of economic growth in our region through improved educational and health outcomes for our residents.

The Partnership supports HUD's enforcement of AFFH Rule including codifying the Administrative Rule if necessary, to ensure enforcement.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Partnership supports promoting and defending robust Intellectual Property (IP) rules globally, while strengthening enforcement efforts in the U.S. and abroad.

The IP generated by U.S. companies is critical to America's prosperity and leadership in the global economy. IP rights provide a legal framework for innovation and creativity. To incentivize inventors and entrepreneurs to create, companies need reassurance that ideas will be protected by law. Protecting ideas helps spur investment in new research to solve the world's most pressing problems. Unfortunately, the IP rights of innovative industries are increasingly under assault around the globe from criminal counterfeiting and piracy networks, anti-IP coalitions, patent trolls that do not actually create anything and even some governments that seek to erode patent, trademark and copyright protections. Counterfeiting and piracy have enormous economic implications and are responsible for the loss of billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs annually. In addition to the economic ramifications, consumers are exposed to often dangerous and defective products. Protecting IP supports job creation in the nation's innovative sectors and ensures that the products consumers use are authentic, safe and effective.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports:

- Strengthening IP protection and enforcement.
- Improving the patent and trademark systems.
- Protecting companies from frivolous litigation by "patent trolls."
- Expanding the efforts of the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.
- Preserving a strong international IP legal framework.
- Advancing trade agreements with modern-day IP provisions.
- Fighting IP theft online.
- Ensuring IP compliance by America's trading partners.
- Ensuring the U.S. Government leads by example.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Partnership supports a robust trade agenda so Iowa companies can continue to export goods and services around the globe to create jobs for American workers. Therefore, The Partnership has dedicated itself to building Greater Des Moines' (DSM's) global presence through increasing exports and foreign direct investment. Those two goals are integral parts of the Global DSM Trade and Investment Strategy, which was developed as part of the Global Cities Initiative, a joint project of the Brookings Institution and JP Morgan Chase. The program equips metropolitan leaders with the information, policy ideas and global connections needed to bolster regional positions in the global economy.

In 2017, Iowa exported $13.3 billion in manufactured and value-added agricultural goods. Iowa's largest market was Canada, which posted merchandise exports of $4.07 billion or 30.4 percent of the state's total. Iowa's largest merchandise export category is machinery, which accounted for $2.1 billion.

It is important for Congress and the Administration to support pro-trade policy initiatives, trade and investment policies and agreements that will help American companies and workers to remain the most competitive in the world.

Many foreign countries still maintain steep tariffs and other barriers against U.S. exports, while the U.S. market is largely wide open. Across the world, there are nearly 300 free trade agreements (FTAs) in force; the U.S. has FTAs in effect with 20 countries. American workers and farmers deserve the opportunity to compete — and succeed — on a level playing field.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports the following pro-growth international trade and investment policies and principles:

- Congressional approval of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA). The USMCA preserves and strengthens the benefits of North American trade for American workers, farmers, businesses and consumers.
- Reach a new trade agreement with China, as commercial engagement and the expansion of trade and investment ties between the U.S. and China benefit both countries and their business communities.
- Negotiate additional bilateral investment treaties with major markets around the globe.
- Modernize U.S. export controls to enhance national security and competitiveness.
- Boost business and leisure travel and the jobs they sustain by improving the visa process and expanding the Visa Waiver program.
- Continue the process of normalizing relations with Cuba by removal of remaining trade and financial restrictions.
- Approve nominees to the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. to give the board the quorum it needs to approve transactions over $10 million.

IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY EXPORT ASSISTANCE

The Partnership supports continued funding of the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant program administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Iowa has been fortunate to receive substantial funds via the STEP program in recent years. These funds have been awarded predominantly to small businesses as grants for activities that increase international sales (i.e. exhibiting in international trade shows and trade missions). The success of this program is demonstrated through this phenomenal return on investment. In addition, these funds have assisted small businesses that might not have considered exporting due to limited budgets.

REGIONAL EXPORT ACCELERATOR CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM

The Partnership supports funding for an Economic Development Administration program to assist with the development and implementation of Regional Export Plans.

The Administration has proposed investing $12 million to promote regional export strategies with the Regional Export Challenge. The Regional Export Challenge, a competitive grant program, will support those regions that develop and implement sustainable export action plans to proactively identify and support firms and sectors with the greatest export potential.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life is widely recognized as a critical factor in location decision making for both workers and companies. A region cannot be world-class without a comprehensive and consistent commitment to its culturally rich and diverse arts and recreational amenities which serve as economic drivers in today's globally minded community development. Further, creating water trails and greenways while restoring and maintaining clean and safe rivers, lakes and streams will further boost the region's ability to attract local, regional and national visitors and reinforce local pride-of-place for residents.

Greater Des Moines (DSM) has demonstrated a sustained dedication to building cultural and recreational assets for years, the result being a community with an impressive array of unmatched resources. The Partnership's goals are to make DSM the "Trails Capital of the World," to have sustainable waterways and greenways and to offer outstanding arts and cultural amenities that advance broad regional priorities. The Partnership supports federal initiatives that help achieve these objectives.

REGIONAL TRAILS

The Partnership supports funding high-priority trail projects and continued funding for federal trails programs. Numerous studies have shown that trails, parks, recreation and green space help improve communities and grow local economies by increasing physical activity, lowering health care costs, decreasing traffic congestion, attracting businesses, improving property values, increasing tax revenues and creating jobs.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports continuing federal funding for multipurpose trails and other transportation- and recreation-related programs that improve community health and livability. The Partnership also supports continued funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program, which provides matching grants to state and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Additionally, multi-use trails are utilized as an alternative mode of transportation and provide significant quality of life enhancements and recreational opportunities for Iowans. To help DSM become the "Trails Capital of the World," The Partnership supports continued investment in the Federal Recreational Trails Program as well as the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Set Aside program.

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Arts, culture and heritage elevate and enrich a vibrant DSM. As essential contributors to the region's quality of life and economic vitality, dozens of organizations, attractions and programs help draw regional tourism, increase resident satisfaction, help attract and retain talent and make DSM a premier place to work, live and play. According to a 2017 economic impact study of the arts completed by Americans for the Arts and supported by Bravo Greater Des Moines, arts, culture and heritage organizations in the region contributed more than $185 million in total economic activity, supported 5,677 jobs and generated $16.8 million in state and local tax revenue. Clearly, the arts mean business in DSM.

Public investment in arts, culture and heritage provides tremendous value and has been a catalyst for the creative sector while also generating unparalleled private support. This continued investment and meaningful

partnership will further position Iowa as an innovative, progressive state. Therefore, The Partnership supports the following programs and policies:

- Increased funding for Iowa's National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – State Arts Agency Partnership Grant to invest in people and projects that foster economic growth and enhance the cultural identity of local communities.

- Increased funding of the National Park Service – Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) which includes grant-in-aid to Iowa's State Historic Preservation Office for heritage preservation and protection programs that preserve the nation's heritage, create jobs and revitalize communities.

- Increased funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which helps to ensure universal access to the vital public services provided by Iowa Public Television (IPTV). IPTV relies on CPB's investment to educate people of all ages, partner with public safety officials to help save lives and foster a well-informed citizenry with historical, cultural and civic resources on air, online and on the ground.

- Increased funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), whose agencies' resources and grant programs make these investments possible at the state and local level.

In addition to the support of the above programs, The Partnership supports competitive grants offered to the state and local level through federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Parks Service (NPS) – Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Specific grants include:

- The State Historic Preservation Office of Iowa (SHPO) requests an annual grant of roughly $850,000 from the HPF, administered by the NPS. This funding allows the SHPO to administer the National Register of Historic places application process, provide consultation and review projects participating in the State and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit program.

- Additionally, SHPO is applying for a $600,000 grant from the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program, which supports the rehabilitation of historic properties at the national, state and local level of significance in order to rehabilitate, protect and foster economic development of rural communities. If awarded, subgrants will be awarded for preservation of properties in Iowa's rural communities.

- The State Historical Society of Iowa has applied for and received annual grants to support activities undertaken by the Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board, which works to improve the care of historical records by individuals and by private and governmental organizations in Iowa. These grants encourage cooperative projects among statewide institutions, promote local records management programs and allows for review of the condition of historical records in the state. The request is in the amount of $10,000.

- A $620,000 annual grant for the Iowa Arts Council from the NEA, of which are granted statewide to support arts education and to provide access to arts activities in both rural and urban communities.

- The State Historical Society of Iowa is applying for the NEH Challenge Grant program for support of a $2 million project to rehouse the Society's archival collection through the planning, purchase and installation

of new archives compact storage.

- A $300,000 NEH grant to create a national digital resource of historically significant newspapers which will be freely accessible via the Internet. The State Historical Society of Iowa's *Iowa Digital Newspaper Project* has received four rounds of grants with continuous support from 2012 to 2020 with plans to apply for a fifth grant as part of the 2020-2022 cycle to continue digitization of Iowa's historic newspapers expanding public access.

- A request of $350,000 from the State Historical Society of Iowa for a NEH SCHC Implementation Grant in order to purchase and install new museum-quality lighting in the 45,000 square feet of museum gallery space in the State Historical Museum of Iowa.

- Des Moines Metro Opera applied for $20,000 from the NEA in support of the OPERA Iowa Educational Troupe's 2020 season. The OPERA Iowa Tour annually covers over 70 Iowa communities to reach approximately 26,000 children and adults through engaging classroom workshops and onsite musical performances throughout Iowa and contiguous states.

- The Des Moines Symphony has submitted a $15,000 request to the NEA to support the 2020 Youth Concerts where more than 5,000 DSM students in the fourth and fifth grades learn in-depth about orchestral music through an enhanced, multi-media curriculum provided to each school, then see and hear a live Des Moines Symphony Performance at the Des Moines Civic Center. Support for Youth Concerts helps accomplish a commitment to offering live performances to an increasing number of youths through discounted and free tickets.

- The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant through the U.S. Department of Education, as a collaboration between the Des Moines Public Schools and the After School Arts Program (ASAP).

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Many Greater Des Moines (DSM) companies are facing challenges due to a shortage of qualified workers. These workforce challenges are particularly acute related to technology skills. Increasing our competitive workforce involves “Cradle through Career” strategies to strengthen the emerging workforce pipeline, to retool the incumbent workforce and to access national and international talent pools.

America is moving into its fourth industrial revolution — sometimes referred to as I4 — which is being driven by new technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics and faster, smaller computing. Technology jobs are required in every industry sector and the need for individuals with information technology skills continues to grow. These impacts are happening rapidly and so must the pace at which education and training systems must respond. This urgency to boost technology skills for emerging, transitioning and current workforce is particularly critical to DSM where 33 percent of GDP comes from finance and insurance — industries where a high percentage of jobs will be disrupted by technological change. Investing in technical learning experiences at all levels of the education system — K-12 to post-secondary and life-long learning — is vital to continued economic growth in DSM and across the country.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Partnership supports increased federal investment in early childhood education programs coupled with strong accountability systems that measure results, ensure high program standards and expand the number of children served, including the creation of a voluntary federal preschool grant program.

America’s continuing efforts to improve education and develop a world-class workforce will be hampered without a federal and state commitment to early childhood education for three- and four-year-old children. In today’s world, where education and skill levels determine future earnings, the economic and social costs to individuals, communities and the nation of not taking action on early childhood education are far too great to ignore, especially when the benefits far outweigh the costs. The research is clear that the return on investment is linked to quality education. Simply increasing participation without ensuring program quality will not produce positive results. Not only does high-quality early childhood education make a difference for children, it matters to employed parents. Employers increasingly find that the availability of good early childhood programs is critical to the recruitment and retention of parent employees.

K-12 EDUCATION

With a steadily climbing poverty rate in Iowa, strengthening the economy depends on targeted investments to lift students out of poverty into the skilled workforce. The Partnership supports several federal programs designed to meet these challenges including:

- Adequate funding for Title I. Current funding levels already leave gaps while needs are increasing. Statewide, the percentage of kids who qualify for free or reduced lunch has gone from 27 percent in 2000 to 42 percent today. In Des Moines Public Schools, it has gone from 45 percent in 2000 to 75 percent today. The cycle of poverty can be reversed by giving these students the extra support needed to successfully enter the workforce.

- Adequate funding for Title II which provide efforts recruiting, retaining and training a high-caliber teaching force.

- Funding for 21st Century After School Programs that is used to provide job skills and computer training, as well as summer enrichment programs to increase students' success. Continuing this program is critical for helping the most vulnerable kids successfully complete an education.

- To that end, The Partnership supports continued implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), with a focus on high standards, quality assessments and resources for schools in most need. Specifically:

    - Provide for the fair and comprehensive participation of special needs and English Language Learning (ELL) students with particular focus on "at risk" students and high-needs schools.

    - The reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act should retain local flexibility for school districts and retain the current formula grants.

    - Oppose mandated joint applications from school districts and community colleges (currently permissible but not required).

In order to prepare our students for the new, cross-functional jobs of tomorrow that require technical, social and analytical skills, we must invest in teachers, curriculum and infrastructure that moves away from memorization and standardized testing to problem-based inquiry that fosters creativity, agility and innovation.

An education without the arts is inadequate. Therefore, we call on our public policy leaders to provide a systemic and rigorous arts education for all students in all public schools by leveraging the expertise and experience of the partners involved in arts education.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Growing the nation's economy and maintaining DSM's global competitive edge in science and technology requires investing in post-secondary education. Access and completion are the keys – post-secondary education options need to be more available and affordable to meet those objectives. Increasing availability can be achieved by expanding delivery methods such as online programs, satellite campuses, dual credit courses for high school students and weekend and evening classes. Increasing affordability starts by reducing the absolute cost of post-secondary education to students and their families. It also includes supporting needs-based grants and work-study programs and improving access to loans with favorable terms and repayment options. Given the prominent federal government role in higher education policies and funding, The Partnership urges Congress to support measures to promote greater access to and completion of post-secondary education programs critical to success of our workforce and our national economy in the future.

As Congress considers re-authorization of the Higher Education Act and related legislation, The Partnership will support measures which align with the following specific objectives:

- Promote methods to help students and families be wise consumers of post-secondary options.

- Make post-secondary education accessible and affordable for all qualified students.

- Simplify and improve federal programs to maximize their utilization by all who need them.
- Promote innovation in delivery methods to expand post-secondary participation and completion.
- Strengthen education/workforce development connections in key fields of economic priority.
- Promote innovation and competitiveness agendas that focus on enhancing the government's support for basic research.
- Strengthen the nation's talent pool in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Encourage public/private and state/federal partnerships to achieve shared goals.

To address the growing number of workers burdened with high costs of student loan repayment, The Partnership supports passage of the Employer Participation in Repayment Act of 2019. This legislation expands the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to include payments of qualified education loans by an employer to either an employee or a lender.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports efforts to create a federal employment and training system that is driven by the actual needs of employers based on accurate and timely regional labor market data. Given the quickening pace of change in workplace technology and the growing demand for flexible, highly-skilled employees in all sectors of the economy, not even the most experienced workers can afford to rely on existing skills. To remain competitive, businesses must invest not just in the preparation and recruitment of new talent, but also the continuing development of workers at all stages of a career.

The Partnership supports investing in the workforce by:

- Maintaining new investments in the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to help support expansion of state child care assistance programs, a key workforce support that assists Iowans in the high cost of child care and allows them to participate in the workforce.
- Expanding Pell Grants to Short-Term Credential Programs and incarcerated individuals.
    - Pell Grants are a critical component necessary for low-income Iowans to pursue post-secondary education. Since the 1994 Crime Bill, incarcerated individuals have been unable to access Pell Grants. Restoring Pell Grants to this population would assist in adult basic education, post-secondary education attainment and smooth the transition back to our communities.
    - Expanding Pell Grants to short-term credentials and certificates would also address the middle-skills gap. Currently, Pell Grants may only be used toward a program that results in a two or four-year degree. Many short-term credential and certificate programs do not meet the program of study threshold of the Pell Grant program and an expansion would assist many more Iowans in pursuing skill-building.
- Reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in alignment with the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA). TANF is an essential part of the funding stream used by states to

support low-income families. However, the program has not been reauthorized or reformed since the 2014 WIOA. Aligning the TANF program with the objectives and parameters of WIOA would assist states in providing opportunities for skill attainment, education and asset-building among public assistance participants, reducing the need for reliance on such programs.

- Promoting stronger connections between adult education and workforce, supporting career pathways and private sector partnerships and serving people with barriers to employment by increasing funding of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to the FY 2019 authorized level.

- Ensuring that any infrastructure bill includes new investments in training partnerships, consistent with the bipartisan Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act. Proposed new investments in our nation's roads, bridges and other infrastructure could create millions of new jobs in the coming years, but nearly half would require some education and training beyond high school. We will need to ramp up our support for apprenticeships and other skills strategies to keep up with demand.

- Increasing investment and utilization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment & Training program, a skills and job training program for SNAP participants administered by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

- Providing adequate federal funding for adult education and English as a second language. A total of 36 million adults have limited English, reading or math skills that prevent pursuit of middle-skill credentials, but just 1.5 million are served annually through federal programs. The Partnership supports increased funding for the WIOA Title II program.

- Passing the Community College to Career Fund Act to provide dedicated support for partnerships between industry and community colleges. Community and technical colleges could use these funds to support high quality training in partnership with local industries, workforce boards and other stakeholders.

- Passing legislation redirecting the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to support apprenticeship and other work-based learning. Many businesses are investing in work-based learning to help entry-level employees advance, but WOTC does not reward employer investments after making a hire. The Partnership supports the need to shift these dollars to reward employers who make upskilling a priority.

- Funding Wagner/Peyser Employment Service (ES) activities under Title III of WIOA at current levels to ensure job seekers can access these key labor exchange services and to support greater alignment between the ES and other federal workforce investments.

- Continuing the Career Pathways Innovation Fund, Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development, High Growth Job Training, General Education Development and Adult Basic Education initiatives and enacting the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act to promote workforce development efforts.

- Continuing support for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), which helps workers, firms and others negatively impacted by trade.

- Continuing to fund the Senior Community Service Employment Program and the TAA to sustain federal training programs to ensure adequate parameters for serving older workers in an ever-changing global workforce. In today's economy, workers are likely to need frequent skills updating to remain competitive. Older workers will continue to need training, help with job placement and other assistance as individuals

continue to be actively engaged in the workforce.

- Continuing funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Programs such as AmeriCorps and the SeniorCorps provide opportunities for more than 5 million Americans to volunteer, gain valuable career experience and share experiences.

- Ensuring that veterans receive comprehensive counseling and related services regarding all higher educational options, in addition to funding the Centers of Excellence for Veterans Success in the Higher Education Act.

IMMIGRATION

The U.S. benefits from the ability to attract international visitors, students and workers. The Partnership affirms that enabling talented and hard-working individuals to contribute to America will increase business creation, enhance international competitiveness and create more high-paying jobs for all Americans. It is critical that America remains competitive in attracting and retaining talented foreign nationals.

Recently the Partnership, along with more than 30 other business, education and community leaders across the state, put forth the Iowa Compact on Immigration. The Compact calls for bipartisan immigration policy reforms that ensure the federal system meets the needs of employers and the labor market, provide a permanent solution for undocumented Iowans who make significant contributions to the state's economy and secure the southern border while enforcing the nation's laws.

The Partnership urges Congress to modernize the current immigration system and to adopt the six principles of the Iowa Compact on Immigration to guide the immigration discussion.

1. **Federal Responsibility:** Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries. The Iowa Compact on Immigration urges Iowa's congressional delegation to work to enact immigration policy at the federal level that improves the immigration system, keeps communities safe and protects the borders.

2. **Strengthening the Economy and Workforce:** For the state economy to grow and compete, Iowa needs a robust workforce and policies that prioritize attracting and retaining international talent. The immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive to and effective at meeting the demands of the economy and the industries that drive growth in the state.

3. **A Common Sense Approach:** Immigrants have always been and remain an important part of communities across Iowa. We must adopt a common-sense approach to immigration that reflects long-established values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in both the state's, as well as the nation's, history and economy. Immigration policies must provide a sensible path forward for immigrants wishing to come to the country and a permanent resolution for those who are of good character, pay taxes and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture, but lack legal status.

4. **Effective Enforcement:** The Iowa Compact on Immigration supports a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime and safeguards witnesses and victims. It further urges a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and unintended

consequences to businesses, the workforce and consumers. Furthermore, the broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably and affordably determine who is permitted to work, ensuring an adequate workforce for a growing economy.

5. **Family:** Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and cohesive communities. Immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environments for all children across our state.

6. **Competitive Communities:** The Iowa Compact on Immigration recognizes that the communities that are able to attract a competitive workforce will continue to grow and those communities are generally the only ones who embrace and welcome new citizens. The Compact supports local policies that create an environment that ensures that all residents have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Specifically, The Partnership supports the following to be incorporated into a modernized immigration system:

- Expansion and reasonable interpretation of the H-1B Visa Program for highly skilled workers. Employers in the U.S. must be able to hire the necessary talent to maintain and expand businesses and create more jobs and wealth for the U.S. economy. The H-1B program is important to U.S. economic competitiveness and technological leadership, as well as to the provision of health care and other critical services, especially in rural areas. Artificial caps on the category hurt U.S. competitiveness as U.S companies continue to locate key personnel and projects outside the U.S. and as talented individuals move to countries that welcome such talent flow. The Partnership also supports reinstatement of the premium processing of the H-1B program for cap-exempt industries and continuation and expansion of the existing Occupational Practical Training status for international students.

- Reasonable interpretation of the L-1 Visa Program for intra-company transferees. Restrictions on the L-1 intra-company visa category, a major conduit for foreign investment in the U.S. that creates millions of jobs, has the potential to jeopardize a significant part of the economy.

- Expansion of the Employment-Based (EB) Immigrant Visa Program. The overriding purpose of the EB green card system is to provide permanent residence to those individuals who add value to the U.S. economy. Many applicants utilizing the EB visa system are in fields related to science and mathematics. A large portion of these applicants are graduates of U.S. universities, accounting for more than half of the post-graduate STEM degrees awarded in the U.S. Almost all employment-based green card applicants already live and work in the U.S. on temporary visas. These individuals are paying taxes, contributing to economic growth and recovery through innovations and job creation, purchasing property, investing locally and raising the next generation as Americans. In addition, due to an arbitrary cap on immigration from any single country, many equally qualified EB applicants from highly populated countries must wait significantly longer than applicants from countries with smaller populations (e.g., over a decade for individuals from India compared with a few years for individuals from Egypt). For this reason, it seems appropriate for companies to count employees currently being sponsored in the EB green card process as U.S. employees, as opposed to non-immigrants, since those individuals have expressed an intention to become permanent, productive citizens of the U.S.

- Continuing implementation of the EB-5 Visa program for foreign-born investors in businesses that benefit the U.S. economy and create or save at least 10 full-time jobs for U.S. workers.

- Creating a clear path for foreign-born entrepreneurs to create business in the U.S. and hire U.S. workers.

- Creating temporary visa programs for workers to fill essential non-professional roles for which U.S. workers are not available, but not limited to seasonal jobs.

- Passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act which provides legal status for thousands of young people who were brought to this country as children, have grown up as Americans and now face an uncertain future.

- Resettlement of refugees to the U.S. The Partnership requests that the Office of Refugee Resettlement's budget be funded at a level that allows local service providers and communities to be prepared to receive these new Iowans.

- Recognition by Congress of the need of clear, thoughtful and predictable regulations of immigration laws. Programs such as the Conrad 30 waiver that allows J-1 medical doctors to apply for a waiver for the 2-year residence requirement upon completion of the J-1 exchange visitor program support the workforce needs of DSM. The Partnership supports an increase in the number of slots per state and the creation of a pool for all unused visas to be made eligible to states with full slots.

TECHNOLOGY

Telecommunications is essential to the U.S. economy. Broadband application and services have the power to transform the American economy by spurring investment and innovation in e-commerce, education, health care, entertainment, government and almost every other economic sector. The ability to engage in e-commerce enables all businesses, regardless of size or location, to sell to customers around the country and the world. Accordingly, The Partnership supports the following technology, broadband and e-commerce policies:

TELECOM ACT OF 1996

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives limited attention to the internet and has no mention of “broadband” or “high speed internet.” Modernization of this act and any included regulations should be limited, with the knowledge that rules have difficulty in keeping pace with fast advancing technology. Intelligent regulatory restraint will also serve the purpose of encouraging private sector investment in this critical and evolving technology.

BROADBAND

The Partnership supports federal policies that spur private sector investment in broadband infrastructure, foster public-private partnerships, recognize the competitive nature of today's telecommunications market and avoid over-regulation.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM

The Partnership supports updated federal telecommunications laws that reflect the competitive nature of the industry, spur economic development, encourage the deployment of new technologies and services and eliminate federal policies that hinder investment in technology.

CYBERSECURITY

The Partnership recognizes the lack of standards in notifications of consumers after a data breach leads to unnecessary confusion for both the victims of the breach and payments service providers. Therefore, The Partnership supports efforts at the federal level to bring a uniform minimum standard to the notification of consumers after a breach occurs.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation system is vital to the Greater Des Moines (DSM) economy. Businesses and residents depend on a multi-modal network that connects people to jobs, educational opportunities, businesses and services needed to live healthy, productive lives. Additionally, people are driving less with young professionals preferring to walk, bike, use public transit and fly, while the 65 and older population is growing and demanding mobility options.

However, America's transportation network has been stretched beyond capacity and fallen into disrepair. Currently, 35 percent of the region's roads are in poor or very poor condition and 20 percent of the region's bridges are considered functionally obsolete or structurally deficient. Airports Council International – North America has identified an annual need of $20 billion to simply maintain existing airports. A decaying transportation system costs the economy more than $78 billion annually in lost time and fuel. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), nearly one-third of the nation's roads are in poor or mediocre condition and one-fourth of its bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Transportation funding also results in job creation. Each dollar invested in highway construction generates $1.80 of Gross Domestic Product, and according to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), $1 billion in federal highway investment plus the state match supports 34,000 jobs, and every dollar invested in public transportation generates roughly $6 in economic returns. Nationally, airports create 9.6 million jobs. However, increased congestion due to crumbling transportation infrastructure and insufficient capacity disrupts the important connections that businesses rely upon, imposing additional costs on workers and employers.

Accordingly, The Partnership advocates for a comprehensive approach to solving the nation's looming transportation infrastructure crisis. Specifically, The Partnership believes that a multi-modal and intermodal vision must prioritize maintenance of existing facilities, manage capacity, expand alternative modes, reduce congestion and improve the efficient, safe and sustainable movement of goods and people throughout the country and world.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Investment in the nation's transportation network remains one of the key components of economic recovery and the future. As the demand for transportation increases, the financial resources committed to preserve and invest in needed capacity and service improvements remain inadequate. Additional long-term and reliable investment levels are necessary for Iowa's economic future.

The Partnership will continue to work with Congress, the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA), local governments and other key partners to strategically identify and prioritize regional surface transportation projects. Accordingly, The Partnership supports the following:

- A national transportation authorization program utilizing federal funding that allows states the flexibility to accomplish national goals within state priorities.

- Increased federal transportation funding to Iowa. The Partnership advocates against reductions in federal funding or redirection of funds to larger metropolitan centers outside the state. The Partnership also supports increased flexibility in the use of federal funds by local communities.

- Continued improvements to the existing Highway Trust Fund, which finances roughly one-quarter of all public highway and mass transit spending in the U.S. The Partnership supports the development of a sustainable, dedicated and sufficient funding solution for the Highway Trust Fund to ensure federal resources are adequate for the ongoing needs of transportation infrastructure.

- A transportation reauthorization (preferably a 5-year reauthorization) to support critical transportation infrastructure. The reauthorization bill should include the following:

    - Protections again unfunded mandates that at expenditures at the state and local level.

    - Making funding available for all modes of transportation including public transportation and critical infrastructure maintenance.

    - Maintaining federal infrastructure programs, such as the Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD), and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant programs.

- The use of value capture as a public financing tool to recover a share of the value created by public transportation investment (i.e., tax increment financing, special assessments, land value tax).

- Designating the U.S. 65/Iowa 5 beltway, also known as the Purple Heart Highway, as part of the U.S. Interstate System. Designating this part of the beltway as an interstate would open up economic development opportunities for communities along the route and help to defer congestion on the existing interstate system in the metro area. Designation must be approved by both the Federal Highway Administration and the Iowa DOT. Although no new construction is necessary, new signage and a minimum speed limit would be required, and future maintenance and upgrade responsibilities will need to occur.

TECHNOLOGY

The Partnership supports policies and programs that ease the introduction and widespread adoption of emerging transportation technologies. These technologies include, but are not limited to, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, transportation network companies and vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure Smart City technology necessary for autonomous vehicles.

Additionally, The Partnership supports federal policies and programs that ease the introduction and widespread adoption of electric vehicles, including policies that simplify the establishment of more charging stations nationwide.

COMPLETE STREETS

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act made significant strides in directing states and metros to build safer streets by including Complete Streets policy in federal surface transportation for the first time. The Partnership supports continued federal support for Complete Streets, including increased flexibility to allow multimodal transportation amenities on streets and roadways. The Partnership also supports design

standards like the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Street Design Guide, that focus on design streets for all users.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

As Congress and the Administration consider the FY 2020 appropriations process and an infrastructure package, The Partnership encourages further investment in public transit and mobility options. With one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, more and more businesses are turning to public transportation as a way to help attract and retain employees. Specifically, The Partnership supports:

- Increasing funding to the Bus and Bus Facilities program through the FY20 Appropriations process to $900 million, which is equal to the FY12, pre-FAST Act amount.
    - Grant programs targeting bus transit have a strong return on investment for localities. For example, the federal grant program that resulted in DART Central Station allowed for the revitalization of the Walnut Street corridor and a safer, more attractive transfer facility for customers.
- Action on a robust Infrastructure Package that includes $7.42 billion in federal funding for bus transit programs. Unfortunately, 57 percent of the public transit vehicles in Iowa are past their useful lives, reducing the dependability of public transit and increasing maintenance costs. At an average cost of $600,000 per bus and factoring in a 20 percent local match, it would take $151 million to replace all of these buses.

AVIATION

The Partnership supports the Des Moines International Airport's Terminal Concept Plan to create an airport that keeps up with Iowa's growing corporate aviation and commercial passenger demand. The Des Moines International Airport has a $644 million annual economic impact on the State of Iowa. The Partnership believes that as the current facility comes to the end of its useful economic life that it is imperative to invest in a facility and space that accommodates DSM's economic growth and allows the flexibility that the airport will need in the future.

The Partnership also supports the efforts of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to work with the Des Moines International Airport and Ankeny Regional Airport to fund capital improvement projects. The Partnership requests the Airport Improvement Program funding be increased to $3.8 billion from the current $3.35 billion and encourages Congress to make timely appropriations of the Airport Improvement Program funds necessary for the capital improvement projects.

Specifically, the Ankeny Regional Airport requests $1.7 million for land acquisition for the Runway 18 Approach Protection and Future Runway Extension and $786,000 for Rehabilitation of Runway 18/36.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports:

- Increasing the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC). PFCs are not a tax, but instead a user fee charged to passengers using the airport. PFCs have no impact on the federal budget, as the fees are collected by the

airlines and returned directly to the airport for use on projects that are approved by both the FAA and the airlines.

- Ensuring the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office fully staffs its office at the Des Moines International Airport by adding staff positions to match staffing levels with other comparable airports in the Midwest, such as Omaha (four full-time employees) and Sioux Falls (two full-time employees).

- Continue the intermittent processing of Global Entry applications in Des Moines.

RAIL

The Partnership supports extending high-speed passenger service connecting Chicago, the Quad Cities, Iowa City, DSM, Council Bluffs and Omaha, studying the extension of high-speed passenger rail service from Minneapolis-St. Paul to DSM to Kansas City, and continued enhanced federal investment in high-speed passenger rail funding.

The Partnership supports the enactment of an infrastructure investment tax credit for, and opposes the re-regulation of, the freight rail industry.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Partnership annually develops a list of priority transportation projects of importance to the region. This list is intended to keep Iowa's Congressional Delegation and the DOT apprised of key transportation investments planned for the region, should additional federal resources become available. The list of transportation projects identified by and approved by The Partnership Government Policy Committee is included on the following page.

2019 MPO/Greater Des Moines Partnership Priority Transportation Projects				
ID	**Sponsor**	**Project**	**Description**	**Total Cost**
1	City of Ankeny	West First Street Widening and Improvements - Phase 1	Reconstruct 4-lane arterial street to a 5-lane PCC section with raised medians, new traffic signals, a transit bus turn-out stop and 8' shared use sidewalk.	$6,900,000
2	City of Carlisle	Scotch Ridge Road and Highway 5 Improvements	Improvements to Scotch Ridge Road from Highway 5 to Bellflower Drive to add turn lanes and traffic signals at the intersection with Bluestem Drive and a roundabout intersection at the Middle School. Improvements to the Highway 5 and Scotch Ridge Road intersection include adding turn lanes and pedestrian crossings to the intersection.	$3,249,000
3	City of Windsor Heights	University Avenue, 69th to 73rd Street	Narrowing existing street from four to three lanes to slow traffic and include various streetscape improvements.	$6,689,723
4	City of Des Moines and City of Pleasant Hill	SE Connector	Four-lane complete street connecting Downtown Des Moines to US-65.	$50,000,000
5	Des Moines International Airport	New Terminal	The development of a new 14-gate terminal at the existing airport.	$500,000,000
6	Iowa Department of Transportation	I-35 in Ankeny from IA 160/Oralabor Road to NE 36th Street (4-Year. Project, plus FY21 erosion control)	Construct auxiliary lanes from IA 160 to First Street; Reconfigure First Street Interchange; Widen to six lanes from First Street to NE 36th Street.	$20,292,000 (FY20) $51,304,000 (FY17-20)
7	Polk County and City of Ankeny	NW 26th Street Reconstruction Project	Reconstruction of NW 26th Street including widening from a 2-lane rural roadway to a 5-lane urban roadway from NW 66th Avenue to Oralabor Road in Ankeny.	$6,750,000
8	Polk County and City of Des Moines	Broadway Avenue Multi-Modal Improvement Project	Reconstruction of 5.2-mile two-lane rural minor arterial to a three-lane urban road with an underpass below UP Railroad, fixing minimal clearance under I-235 bridge, and adding a paved trail connecting more than 50 miles of regional trails together. Includes storm water runoff cleansing amenities and improved traffic signal system.	$39,891,000
9	City of West Des Moines	Grand Avenue, 1st Street to 6th Street	Widen existing street to accommodate turn lanes and various street-scape improvements.	$5,586,440

10	City of West Des Moines	8th Street, I-235 to Clegg Rd	Widen existing street to accommodate turn lanes and various pedestrian enhancements.	$4,570,000
11	City of Ankeny	High Trestle Trail Regional Trail Connection	Extension of the High Trestle Regional Trail within SE Ankeny to connect with the Gay Lea Wilson Trail and Neal Smith Trail System. Includes 10-foot PCC trail and two overpasses.	$2,400,000
12	City of West Des Moines	Raccoon River Pedestrian East Trail Bridge	Pedestrian bridge across the Raccoon River between Raccoon River Park and Walnut Woods State Park.	$5,000,000
13	City of West Des Moines/City of Windsor Heights	73rd Street/8th Street Trail Connection	Trail to connect Windsor Heights and West Des Moines at 73rd Street/8th Street	$2,500,000
14	City of West Des Moines	Sugar Creek Greenway Trail	Trail along Sugar Creek to connect Waukee and West Des Moines	$8,000,000