

Addressing Climate Change

The Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce exists to serve its members and community by providing services that promote the economy and protect the environment, making this region a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

We anticipate that climate based legislation and regulations will only increase in the future, and we want to ensure our organization has a voice in these matters on behalf of our members and economic interests in the northwest Michigan region. There is great potential for transitioning to a clean energy economy, and northern Michigan can be an economic leader.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has adopted the position that “climate is changing and humans are contributing to these changes. We believe that there is much common ground on which all sides of this discussion could come together to address climate change with policies that are practical, flexible, predictable, and durable. We believe in a policy approach that acknowledges the costs of action and inaction and the competitiveness of the U.S. economy.”

<https://www.uschamber.com/addressing-climate-change>

The Chamber believes that an effective climate policy should:

Leverage the power of business

It will be largely up to the business community to develop, finance, build, and operate the solutions needed to power economic growth worldwide, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and build resilient, lower-carbon infrastructure. Thousands of businesses already are taking action in their own operations and along their value chains by investing in technology solutions and enhancing their efficiency.

Maintain U.S. leadership in climate science

Climate policy should be informed by the best science and observations available. The U.S. should continue to be the world leader in climate science and the major sponsor of the research used in multi-lateral scientific forums.

Embrace technology and innovation

Advanced technologies and innovation combined with existing cost effective clean energy technologies offer the best solution for managing climate risks and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Breakthroughs in commercially-viable technologies will also help to enable significant cuts in GHG emissions without harming economic growth or the competitiveness of energy-intensive trade-exposed industries. The U.S. should maintain a leadership role in technologies, such as advanced nuclear, energy efficient systems and building materials, and large-scale renewables, energy storage and batteries, high-efficiency low-emission power plants, High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission, vehicle electrification, and carbon capture and storage/utilization by supporting a broad-based public-private sector technology portfolio.

The Chamber will continue to support strengthening America’s scientific enterprise, including its national lab system. A technology-neutral climate change policy offers the best opportunity to deliver cost-effective, achievable, and meaningful GHG emission reductions.

Aggressively pursue greater energy efficiency

Improving energy efficiency on both the supply and demand sides can bring almost immediate benefits to business operations and the environment.

Promote climate resilient infrastructure

Adaptation and resilience is critical to minimizing the risk and impacts of climate change. Business is ready to design and build the resilient, low-carbon infrastructure of the future.

Support trade in U.S. technologies and products

Demand for advanced technologies will offer opportunities for growing exports of American technologies, products, and services. Technology cooperation, public-private partnerships, innovative financing, and capacity building are necessary for facilitating commerce in climate solutions stamped “Made in the USA.” Trade rules should protect intellectual property.

In addition, the Traverse City Area Chamber believes effective policy should include the following characteristics:

Market-based with incentives

Good policy will let positive market forces work, and will provide an incentive system that urges climate appropriate policy and technology where the market does not. Some organizations and businesses are already taking voluntary steps to reduce emissions – these efforts should be rewarded. Any approach to reducing carbon emissions should be “technology neutral” so that market forces can find the most efficient solution.

Offers regulatory predictability and stability

Regulatory predictability should allow for long term transition planning. The ability to freeze regulations for a period of time to allow businesses to adjust, deploy capital, and track impacts is important for economic stability.

Removes barriers to investment in and deployment of infrastructure

A transition to greater use of renewable energy sources will depend on investments in energy infrastructure and removing barriers to energy infrastructure development.

Has meaningful impact

Any legislative or regulatory approach adopted should have a meaningful impact on carbon emissions, while also considering reliability, affordability, and environmental impact for energy supply.

We call on policymakers to seize on an approach that rises to the challenge of climate change, leveraging business leadership and expertise, America's energy edge and our ability to innovate. We support our partners at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and ask policymakers work diligently to develop and advance these policy ideas.

Adopted by the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
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