

## ***Federal - 2026 Legislative Priorities***

### **Workforce and education:**

- Sustain and expand federal investments in regional workforce solutions that strengthen recruitment, acclimation, development and retention, and support coordinated systems that align education, employers and community partners.
- Support Pell Grants, TRIO and campus-based aid programs that help first-generation and low-income students pursue postsecondary opportunities needed to develop talent for economic and national security.
- Advance practical and modernized immigration reforms to support lawful pathways for employment and student-based immigration, including temporary work visas, student visas, humanitarian parole programs, temporary protected statuses and employer-sponsored immigrant visas to ensure regional employers can access international talent pools without diminishing national security or public safety.
- Enact meaningful incentives, reduce burdensome regulations, strengthen supply chains for building material and promote careers in skilled construction trades to expand development and reduce the cost for market-rate and attainable workforce housing.
- Enhance essential child care programs, grants, initiatives and investments to increase access to affordable and quality child care.

### **Business:**

- Enact pragmatic reforms to existing federal regulatory frameworks including streamlining permitting processes, reducing burdensome regulations, and providing economic and regulatory clarity and certainty to support the development of vital economic sectors.
- Evaluate federal tax policies and enact reforms to provide a fair and balanced tax system that spurs innovation and economic growth.
- Support provisions of the Farm Bill and other agriculture legislation to strengthen the Midwest's agricultural sector.
- Support comprehensive energy legislation that promotes access to reliable, sustainable and affordable energy, and invests in infrastructure needed to meet growing energy demands.
- Support the development of innovative energy projects, including carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production.

### **Military:**

- Continue the permanent fielding of the remaining MQ-9 Block 5 aircraft to the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing.
- Establish permanent funding of the Federal Tuition Assistance program for utilization by members of the Air National Guard.
- Amend Defense Health Agency and TRICARE credentialing requirements to allow more providers to become in-network, expanding access to critical mental and behavioral health services.
- Continue to support future mission growth for local Air and Army National Guard units and to continue to modernize equipment and facilities to ensure readiness.
- Allow disaster relief reimbursement for maintenance costs incurred during local response operations to be allocated to states, ensuring equipment is restored to necessary readiness standards.

### **Community Investments:**

- Secure funding to complete the renovation and expansion of the Fargo Hector International Airport.
- Secure federal funding to complement state and local investment for the Eastern North Dakota Alternate Water Supply (ENDAWS) project, which is critical to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.
- Expand federal investments into critical programs and infrastructure projects to foster regional economic development and enhance global competitiveness.