



GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.

The Metro Chamber of Commerce &
Regional Economic Development Organization



FEDERAL AGENDA

GLI 2024-2025 Federal Priorities



Federal Legislative Policies at a Glance

Business Competitiveness

- Review and repeal overly burdensome banking regulations that stifle lending to businesses.
- Provide regulatory clarity for entrepreneurs who rely on blockchain technology.
- Continue federal programs to subsidize broadband services for low-income consumers.
- Establish a federal data security and privacy protection framework.
- Establish federal labor regulation flexibility for different business types.
- Continue federal funding to support regional arts programs.
- Decrease federal spending, ease regulations, and reduce tariffs to stabilize long-term inflation.
- Encourage reforms to ensure protection of intellectual property.
- Limit the standard of joint employer.
- Encourage trade agreements that promote open, free, and fair trade and enable Kentucky's signature industry, bourbon, to participate in the export programs open to other industries.
- Expand and make permanent funding for New Markets Tax Credit and Opportunity Zones.
- Express opposition to Federal Trade Commission's recent bans on noncompete agreements.
- Establish safeguards to protect transparency and privacy protection to protect the open internet.
- Fully fund Small Business Development Centers.
- Retain the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and make reforms to further economic growth including expanding business interest deductions.

Education & Workforce Development

- Enact comprehensive reform to support legal immigration.
- Reform criminal justice policies to focus on re-entry support and training for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Increase federal resources for reskilling and retraining initiatives.
- Increase federal funding for high-quality early childhood education.
- Support legislation to expand access to reliable and quality child care.
- Support funding for capital projects at HBCUs.
- Invest in initiatives to build education and training pipelines for healthcare professionals.
- Support employers seeking to help employees pay off student debt and develop continuing education and tuition compensation programs.
- Encourage funding for research and innovation to enhance global competitiveness of the region.
- Increase funding for grants to STEM education and workforce programs.
- Continue funding for supported employment initiatives to alleviate workforce shortages.
- Support programs focused on apprenticeships.
- Allocate additional funding and establish greater funding flexibility for business-led workforce boards.

Environment & Energy

- Ensure EPA's response to PFAs regulations is appropriate and does not unfairly penalize public health water systems.
- Continue to grant funding for cleanup of Brownfields.
- Ensure energy costs are kept low.
- Encourage U.S. EPA to provide state and local air regulatory agencies appropriate tools to bring nonattainment areas into attainment with the PM NAAQS.
- Streamline environmental regulations and provide flexibility during times of emergency and economic recovery.
- Incentivize innovation and growth in the energy industry.
- Support "waters of the U.S." definition that balances environmental protection and economic development.





Health Care

- Invest in programs to address the health care workforce shortage.
- Allow more providers to bill for Medicare and Medicaid services in order to expand health care access.
- Increase resources for mental health treatment and research.
- Support public health infrastructure, including health systems, and provide more flexible funding sources for public health departments.
- Fund comprehensive treatment and recovery programs for substance abuse disorders.
- Continue to allow the use of telehealth.

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Adopt flexible, but clear, universal standards for production and deployment of autonomous vehicles.
- Increase federal funding of the Airport Improvement Program.
- Continue investment in electric vehicle infrastructure nationwide, including charging infrastructure and investments in supply chain.
- Enact legislation to support development of the transportation workforce and ensure safety of transportation workers.
- Support public transit with annual appropriations and grant programs to address maintenance and provide for future investment.
- Continue funding for major infrastructure projects and streamline processes.
- Fully fund critical inland water infrastructure improvements.
- Continue grant funding to expand passenger rail service projects.
- Increase federal funding to maintain and improve safety of railroad infrastructure.
- Increase resources for water, wastewater, stormwater, and flood protection infrastructure.

BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

BANKING REGULATIONS

GLI urges Congress to review and repeal overly burdensome banking regulations that increase costs and stifle lending to businesses, ultimately limiting investment. Regulations for financial institutions should be tailored to include risk in addition to asset size.

BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain technology promises to disrupt the online economy in a manner which improves the lives of consumers and opens the door to new forms of digital commerce. GLI supports policies which provide regulatory clarity for entrepreneurs and developers who are seeking to unlock the innovation promised by this new technology.

BROADBAND ASSISTANCE

As needed and through the Congressional appropriations process, Congress and the Administration should support low-income consumers by subsidizing broadband services through the continuation of the Affordable Connectivity Program. This includes assisting consumers in paying for the broadband service and provider of their choice with widely available and accepted payment methods.

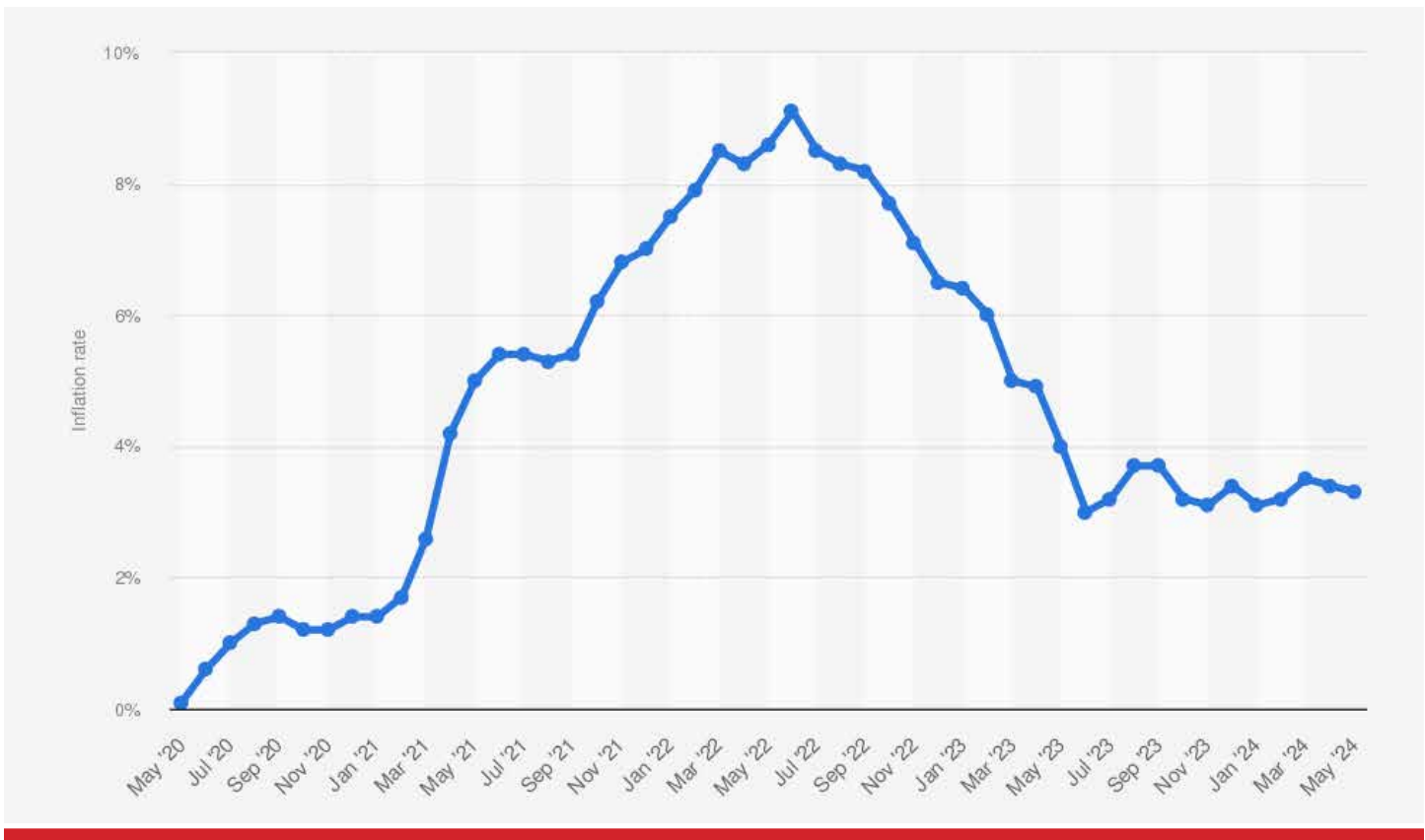
DATA SECURITY & PRIVACY

Congressional action is needed to establish a federal data security and privacy protection framework that includes guidelines, education, and funding. This will protect consumers and businesses by providing certainty and consistency of data security from hackers and ransomware.

GLI recognizes that consumers deserve to have their privacy protected and businesses need certainty to provide the best products and services for the market. To avoid a patchwork of state regulations, GLI supports a unified national data privacy framework to protect consumer data, promote transparency, and provide regulatory certainty in the marketplace while ensuring that businesses can provide the best products and services that their customers have come to expect.



Monthly 12-month inflation rate in the United States from May 2020 to May 2024*



GLI opposes recent expansions to rules around overtime pay, which places strains on payroll for business across the Louisville region.

FAIR LABOR REGULATIONS

Federal labor regulations should include sufficient flexibility to account for different business types and outline clear expectations from employers. GLI supports allowing employers to offer employees compensatory time off as an alternative to monetary compensation for overtime work.

Any future changes to the threshold for the employee exemption for overtime pay should avoid excessive increases in costs for employers, especially small businesses, and ensure that employers are able to adapt to rule changes without fundamentally altering their business model.

FUNDING FOR THE ARTS

Greater Louisville's arts scene competes with the top cities in the world and drives economic growth. GLI supports federal funding for arts programs to help our region continue to attract

and retain top talent, revitalize our downtown following the pandemic, boost tourism, and sustain a positive quality of life for our citizens.

INFLATION

While inflation rates have leveled off in recent months, current levels have led to high prices and increased borrowing costs which affect businesses of all sizes. This troubling trend can be attributed to many factors including increased consumer demand, supply chain disruptions, monetary policy, and federal spending.

We encourage the Administration and the Federal Reserve to maintain monetary policy aimed at reducing inflation in the long-term. Furthermore, we urge the Federal Trade Commission to maintain transparency and respect the due process of their regulatory authority to maintain certainty for businesses during this time of historic challenges. Policymakers should

* Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics © Statista 2024

Additional Information: United States: May 2020 to May 2024

consider additional measures including easing regulations, reducing tariffs, and increasing domestic energy production to combat the historic inflation affecting the buying power of individual households and businesses.

Additionally, GLI urges the Administration to address key issues affecting inflation, including encouraging greater workforce participation and legal immigration.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

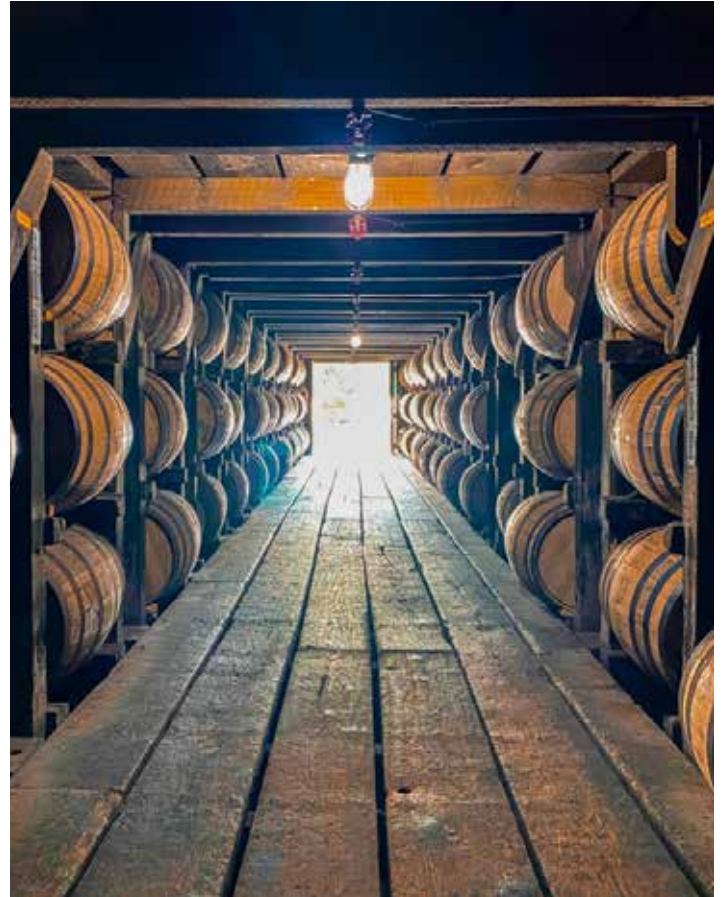
Protection for intellectual property has improved in recent years however continued enforcement is needed, both at home and abroad to ensure that American businesses can foster a spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation. GLI supports reforms to prevent abuses, make patent litigation more efficient and provide alternatives to litigation, and ensure the protection of innocent customers from abusive “trolls.”

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

GLI supports trade agreements that promote open, free, and fair trade with other countries and opposes the imposition of tariffs or any approach to international trade that could bring harm to Greater Louisville businesses, limit access to global markets, disrupt supply chains, and exacerbate the soaring inflation our economy is experiencing. GLI applauds the temporary suspension of the European Union’s and United Kingdom’s retaliatory tariffs on bourbon, Kentucky’s signature industry, and supports making those changes permanent. To ensure fairness in free trade, GLI supports efforts by federal policymakers to deter currency manipulation.

GLI also believes that American whiskey should have the same ability to take advantage of export programs as all other beverage alcohol. Fair participation in export programs would allow Kentucky bourbon to expand its reach around the globe and result in investments in the Greater Louisville region. This would not only strengthen this signature industry for our Commonwealth but also further market Kentucky tourism to the world.

Current tariffs on U.S. finished goods and intermediary products are at record levels. These barriers are distorting markets and costing American businesses and households. Tariff relief is sorely needed to lower costs and tamp down inflation.



The U.S.’ most recent trade agreement, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), incorporates 14 countries and 40 percent of global GDP.



GLI was proud to sign letters of support for halting FTC's noncompete rule and will continue to monitor their progress on behalf of the Louisville business community.

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS

To spur investment and create jobs in low-income, underdeveloped areas in Greater Louisville, GLI supports making permanent and expanding the New Markets Tax Credit and finding ways to incentivize and encourage businesses already existing within Opportunity Zones to expand and invest additional capital in those areas. GLI also supports federal efforts to encourage pro-development zoning and land-use policies at the state and local levels.

JOINT EMPLOYER

To help Greater Louisville businesses operate under reasonable, common sense rules, the federal definition of joint employer should appropriately limit the standard of joint employer and support franchisor-franchisee relationships.

NET NEUTRALITY

U.S. Congressional action is needed to remove uncertainty from the market, provide predictability for both business and consumers, and ensure the issue of net neutrality does not swing back-and-forth with every change in administration. Through legislation that applies to all aspects of the internet eco-system, Congress can permanently protect the open internet for all users while encouraging continued investment for the next generation of internet innovation.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

GLI encourages full federal funding for Small Business Development Centers, which support entrepreneurs and small businesses with technical assistance, capacity building, access to emergency loans, and numerous other key services.

TAX REFORM

Congress should retain the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), which reformed the U.S. tax code to allow American businesses to compete in today's global economy and enact additional reforms. To facilitate economic growth in Greater Louisville, GLI supports the following key reforms:

- Remove limitations on the business interest expense deduction. Limits on this type of deduction particularly harm capital intensive industries, which are already facing increases in interest rates and are currently unable to offset those business expenses.



- Make permanent the full expensing of new capital assets (100% bonus depreciation) to encourage business investment and manufacturing.
- Revise rules enacted in 2022 requiring research and development expenses to be amortized over five years, leading to increased federal income tax liabilities for key industries making innovative progress, like manufacturing and technology.

Congress must also be cognizant of and refrain from increasing the growing national debt which continues to threaten our nation's future economic stability. Federal spending to address the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic

provided essential support to businesses. However, as our country has emerged from the pandemic, and now grapples with record inflation levels and supply chain disruptions, Congress must address the serious fiscal challenges we face and reduce the current level of unsustainable spending. GLI applauds the recent bipartisan Congressional action to suspend the debt limit and avoid default, which would have led to catastrophic consequences for the national economy.

In the future, GLI encourages lawmakers to enact proposals that will continue to reduce federal deficits and to work together to ensure economic stability.

NON-COMPETE AGREEMENTS

Non-competes have long served as standard business practice across sectors to foster innovation. GLI strongly opposes the recent rule released by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) imposing outright bans on non-compete agreement's use.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LEGAL IMMIGRATION

GLI supports legal immigration because while the economy continues to grow and workforce participation remains historically low, our current immigration systems fall short in helping the business community and restricts employers in the process. In today's exceptionally tight labor market, decreased legal immigration has contributed to stifling our economy. These failures impose significant costs on American communities and the economy. American businesses are experiencing significant workforce shortages despite investments in expanding domestic pipelines. In order to ease workforce shortages in Kentucky and the myriad of problems related to those shortages, comprehensive reform is needed to expand legal immigration.

These compromises should focus on sensibly reforming our nation's asylum laws and instituting efficient employment verification forms. Furthermore, relief for businesses needs to include a significant increase in the annual quotas for employment-based immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, an expansion in the scope of essential worker programs, specifically for employers to meet temporary labor needs in non-seasonal jobs, and the creation of new visa options for international students, entrepreneurs, and other high-demand workers to help employers meet their critical workforce needs.

GLI also believes that preserving DACA and protecting Dreamers from the threat of detainment and deportation allows the estimated eleven million people affected to stably engage in the workforce.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM & SECOND CHANCE HIRING

In today's tight labor market where the number of open jobs exceeds the number of unemployed workers, criminal justice reform, and second-chance hiring are vital components to workforce development efforts in regions like Greater Louisville.

While Congress has taken action to refocus the criminal justice system on rehabilitation, reintegration, and training, further action is needed to ensure that the more than 95% of the federal prison population that is released into our

communities has support and skills to prevent them from returning to prison. Connecting formerly incarcerated individuals with employment is critical as it provides secure income, connection with society, and reduces rates of recidivism. Congress should continue support for employers that engage second chance hires through programs like the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Federal Bonding Program. Congress should also pass Clean Slate legislation which would provide grant funding for states to automate their own expungement processes, to address the collateral consequences that justice-involved individuals face as a result of their conviction history. The federal government should also continue programs, like the Pay for Success model, which encourage state and local governments to support reentry services and permanent supportive housing with the goal of reducing recidivism rates and improving outcomes for youths and adults leaving detention.

DISPLACED WORKERS

To help displaced workers reenter the labor force, GLI advocates for increased federal resources for reskilling and retraining initiatives. Scalable new workforce programs will be needed to help displaced workers adapt more quickly to a rapidly changing economy and address short and long-term workforce challenges.

While the unemployment rate in Kentucky hit a record low in 2022, workforce participation remains a concern. Employers have steadily added more jobs since the height of the pandemic, but the number of open jobs continues to outpace the number of unemployed workers. An active and skilled workforce is imperative to addressing this gap.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

GLI applauds the \$1 billion increase in child care and early childhood education funding included in the 2024 spending package through resources such as the Child Care Development Block Grant and Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Congress should continue to build on these funding levels and expanded state-level flexibility in order to increase access to high-quality early childhood education programming, support the early childhood educator

workforce, and to remove child care as a barrier to workforce participation. Increasing access to pre-kindergarten programming through a mixed-delivery model incorporating public preschool, Early Head Start/Head Start, and private child care while resourcing quality improvements across the early childhood ecosystem should remain a priority.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

Affordable child care continues to be a serious barrier to entry and re-entry into the workforce. While federal relief funds helped to sustain the child care sector during the pandemic, further support is needed to ensure the stability of the sector as federal funding ends in 2024. While the challenges the child care industry faces are not new, further federal support is needed to sustain and grow the sector for working families in Kentucky.

GLI supports federal legislation aimed at maintaining pandemic-era improvements to child care supports in order to sustain, and ultimately grow the sector to meet the demands of working parents who need accessible, reliable, and quality child care. Further, improving federal tax incentives programs for employers, like the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit which provides credits for businesses that invest in child care for their employees, will encourage the private sector to engage in solutions that create access to quality child care for their employees.

FINANCIAL AID & STUDENT DEBT

GLI urges reforms to financial aid programs to improve access and affordability while incentivizing outcomes. This should include a review of the gainful employment rule. Congress must also act to mitigate the negative impact of rising student debt on economic growth and entrepreneurship by ensuring borrowers have adequate flexibility to repay loans and by supporting business-led efforts to reduce educational debt. Policymakers should support employers seeking to help employees pay off student debt and develop continuing education and tuition compensation programs.

HBCU FUNDING

Many Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across America need serious campus infrastructure repair and new facilities constructed. GLI encourages Congress to support federal funding for capital improvements that would be available to all HBCUs, including smaller schools that currently lack requisite bonding capacity.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

GLI supports higher education funding tied to institutional performance, funding for research and development grants to colleges and universities, and funding that promotes access for more students, regardless of socioeconomic background, to attain a high-quality post-secondary



More than **200,000** working age adults in Kentucky cited taking care of family as their primary reason for not working.

(Source: KentuckianaWorks)

education. This includes lifting the ban on incarcerated students receiving Pell Grants and increasing Pell Grants to enable more people to enter the workforce.

RESEARCH, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GLI urges the allocation of additional funding for research and innovation connected with technology transfer mechanisms to enhance the global competitiveness contributions of the Greater Louisville region's industries, colleges, and universities. Our region relies on technology-based innovation, such as new materials for advanced manufacturing, development of new drugs and therapies, new ways to automate manufacturing, and advances in artificial intelligence for economic competitiveness.



60% of those previously
criminally involved
reported being
unemployed 4 years
after release.

(Source: US Chamber of Commerce)

STEM EDUCATION & WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

STEM education and workforce programs are vital to filling open positions in Greater Louisville's regional business clusters and are key to cultivating innovation, entrepreneurship, and a competitive tech sector. Federal support through grants and other funding streams can help our region develop the programs needed to cultivate a competitive, forward-looking workforce.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

Supported employment initiatives can help alleviate workforce shortages and facilitate workforce participation among marginalized communities. GLI supports continued funding for vocational rehabilitation agencies and state supported employment services and encourages programs and policies aimed at assisting employers with employing individuals with substance use disorders, criminal backgrounds, or other barriers to workforce participation.

THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT

GLI encourages Congress to allocate additional funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to support the important work of business-led Workforce Boards like KentuckianaWorks and favors allowing increased flexibility in how these funds are used at the state and local levels.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GLI supports program funding focused on integrating work-based learning and competency-based education, such as apprenticeships, and prioritization of credentialing outcomes. Continued funding for programs and grants like those offered through the Department of Labor to increase traditional trade and new technology apprenticeships should be provided.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

APPROPRIATE TREATMENT STRATEGIES & REGULATIONS FOR PFAS

GLI encourages EPA to develop a better understanding of the public health and environmental risks posed by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and the transport pathways by which these chemicals move within the environment. Ensuring that EPA's response to PFAS is fully grounded in scientific analysis will help ensure regulations are appropriate to protect human health and the environment and to improve the treatment strategies available to public utilities.

While hazardous substance designations are intended to ensure that polluters are held responsible for the cleanup of contaminated sites, municipal landfills, water utilities, and local fire departments could face staggering cleanup liabilities for PFAS under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). On April 19, 2024, the Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, David Uhlmann, issued a memo entitled "PFAS Enforcement Discretion and Settlement Policy under CERCLA" which stated that EPA does not intend to pursue response costs for PFAS contamination under CERCLA against these types of public entities who did not significantly contribute to the release of PFAS into the environment. GLI encourages Congress to

support the codification of the April 19th EPA Memo, which would result in an explicit statutory exemption from PFAS liability under CERCLA for water systems, municipal landfills, and municipal fire departments acting in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

FUNDING FOR BROWNFIELDS REMEDIATION

In addition to being an important economic development tool for job creation and leveraging of investment dollars, Brownfield remediation and redevelopment programs are critical for reducing the prevalence of blight and hazardous properties in Greater Louisville. The redevelopment of Brownfield sites has been shown to eliminate environmental hazards, reduce crime, increase affordable housing and mixed-use developments, and increase social and economic accessibility for marginalized populations. We support funding and access to Brownfields Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and other programs that encourage, facilitate, and/or incentivize community developers, investors, non-profits, and state and local governments to rehabilitate these properties.





The Greater Louisville region is soon to be home to the 10th largest EV battery production site in the world.

COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS (CCR)

As the country transitions to sources of energy with lower emissions impacts and to renewables, the legacy of the coal combustion that provided reliable, low-cost power for the industries that fueled our economy remains at former power plant sites in the closed repositories of coal ash and flue gas desulfurization solids. These materials are commonly used as a component of concrete and drywall used to build homes, offices, and roads. However, the supply of these materials will become scarce as the energy transition away from coal continues. Congress recognized that these materials presented little risk to human health or the environment and were valuable to the construction industry with passage of the Bevill Amendment. The need for these materials has only increased since the amendment's passage in the 1980s. Consistent with GLI's call for regulatory reform, policies need to be refined to ensure that the existing CCR sources are minimally disturbed and future supplies can be accessed as catalysts to fuel further economic growth.

GREEN HOUSE GAS REGULATION

As greenhouse gas emission policy is discussed, GLI encourages all policymakers to continue to keep energy costs low and ensure reliability for current and future economic development.

INCREASE DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

With soaring energy prices due to inflation and international conflict, the need for American energy independence has never been more apparent. GLI encourages the federal government to facilitate greater capital investment in projects necessary for longer-term production growth including reversing the ban on oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters and revising policies that discourage permitting for pipelines and other energy-related projects. Encouraging responsible domestic energy production while also investing in clean and renewable energies will enable the United States to be truly energy independent and ensure our economy's resilience in the face of uncertainty in the global energy market.

NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

EPA's Good Neighbor Plan (Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)) places undue burden on businesses and residents through significant Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) allocation restrictions on electric generating utilities. Moreover, FIPs (such as the Good Neighbor Plan) undermine the Clean Air Act's cooperative federalism principles which allow state and local delegated regulators to craft policy that attains NAAQS. U.S. EPA should provide state and local air regulatory

agencies appropriate tools and autonomy to identify and implement practical and logical solutions to bring nonattainment areas into attainment with the PM NAAQS. The sheer number of counties projected to be classified as nonattainment under the 2024 Annual PM2.5 NAAQS will require U.S. EPA to approach NAAQS implementation regulations with a new perspective if success is to be achieved – including the broad application of EPA’s exceptional events policy when making attainment designations.

REGULATORY REFORMS

GLI strongly encourages continued endeavors that mutually sustain protection of the nation’s environment while working to simplify necessary federal environmental requirements. GLI encourages expeditious review, revision, or elimination of unnecessary and/or burdensome federal regulations to reduce bureaucratic delays and costs. Further, newly enacted regulations should be narrowly tailored to reduce regulatory burdens on the business community while ensuring environmental protection goals are met. It is imperative that these regulations foster, and not impede, economic growth in the United States.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

In order for the Greater Louisville region to compete for businesses and talent, we must have access to competitive energy resources and position the energy industry and growth for future economic sustainability. This will be increasingly important to our region as we strive to meet changing EPA standards and ensure energy independence in the global market. GLI encourages the federal government to continue incentivizing innovation and growth in the energy industry through legislation like the Energy Act of 2020 and the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act of 2021. Growth in these areas is critical for our Greater Louisville region to continue to meet EPA compliance standards to reduce air pollution.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERY DEVELOPMENT & SUPPLY CHAIN

While the U.S. has established production of oil, gas, and renewable forms of energy, the same cannot be said for the critical minerals that are needed for batteries and numerous other uses in our economy. GLI urges the Administration to actively establish a domestic supply chain for critical minerals to support growth for the electric vehicle and technology markets, among many others.

WATERS OF THE U.S.

GLI supports a definition of “waters of the U.S.” that respects states’ rights, achieves a reasonable balance of ensuring environmental protection while not stifling economic development, provides regulatory certainty, and is consistent with Supreme Court decisions constraining agency jurisdiction. GLI encourages the U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to seek additional ways to provide clarity to the regulated community with regards to projects that may involve jurisdictional determinations.

HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Health care providers face a widespread shortage of qualified health care professionals. GLI encourages federal investment in existing and new federal initiatives to help identify and build pipelines for recruitment, education, and training of health care professionals at all levels.

The long-term care industry has faced acute challenges in recent years with the labor market shortage forcing many nursing homes to limit admissions. This has led to a ripple-effect on the entire health care system causing hospital patients to wait days, or even months, for discharge as there are few available spots in skilled nursing facilities. The anticipated proposed rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to issue staffing mandates for nursing homes would exacerbate these issues. Rather than imposing a mandate, GLI encourages the Administration to focus on investment in recruitment and retention programs that will bolster health care workforce such as apprenticeship programs for assistant and support staff positions, expanding loan repayment and other incentive-based programs to retain and attract talent.

MEDICARE & MEDICAID

GLI urges Congress to expand current legislation that increases access to health care through telehealth and alternative payment models for both Medicare and Medicaid populations including a focus on social determinants of health. Congress should also maintain stability in Medicaid and Medicare expand offerings for affordable and accessible care to beneficiaries.

Additionally, Congress should consider measures that would allow other providers, such as pharmacists, to bill Medicare and Medicaid for services. This would allow for greater access to expanded clinical services such as testing for minor illnesses and expanded immunization programs.

Additionally, as the Administration seeks further integration across the states for those who are dually eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare, we urge that the quality of the plan and product, as measured by STARS ratings, be considered a top priority.

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

GLI supports proposals to allocate increased resources for mental health treatment and research and encourages the implementation of programs that provide treatment alternatives to incarceration.

GLI also encourages continual and regularly scheduled appropriations of resources to fund comprehensive treatment and recovery programs for substance use disorders.

PUBLIC HEALTH

GLI strongly supports the continued dedication of federal resources to protecting public health, including funding for continued streamlining of the development of scalable vaccines, therapeutics, and treatment strategies for diseases. We also encourage the federal government to support initiatives that increase access to safe and affordable housing for all communities including continued federal funding for lead and radon mitigation.

The federal government must also allocate resources to rebuild and protect the health care infrastructure of the United States by supporting hospitals, health systems, and physician practices that are critical to protecting the health of the public. Public health departments need access to flexible funding sources to ensure the continuity of their work, including addressing health disparities within the communities they serve.

TELEHEALTH

GLI is supportive of the use of telehealth as a tool for providing access to health care services in accordance with applicable state and federal guidance and regulations. Regulatory requirements have been relaxed in recent years, allowing patients to receive necessary health care, including behavioral health, in a virtual environment. We urge Congress to make permanent patients' continued access to health care in a telehealth environment provided that protections to ensure patients' personal safety and health information are in place and that services provided are appropriate for delivery through virtual means.

Telehealth usage has increased by over 70% post-pandemic.

- Source: CDC

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Congress should adopt a set of flexible but clear universal standards to encourage the production and deployment of autonomous vehicles, including for commercial purposes. In addition, federal policymakers and members of Congress should work with the Army and Department of Defense to leverage Fort Knox as an area to test, research, and develop autonomous vehicles in Greater Louisville, which is already a key location for logistics and manufacturing. This would solidify our region as an emerging technology sector and cultivate partnerships between Greater Louisville and federal defense efforts.

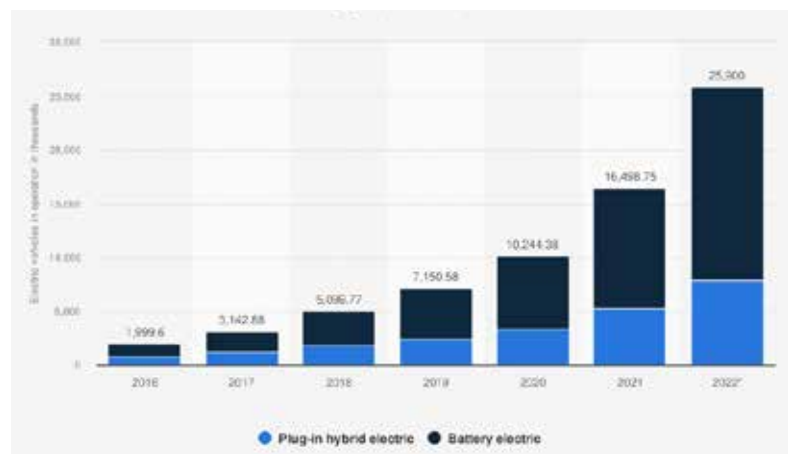
AVIATION

GLI encourages lawmakers to increase federal appropriations for the Airport Improvement Program to the 2011 funding level of \$3.5 billion per year. GLI also supports proposals to relax restrictions on flight sharing to promote the use and growth of general aviation airports within our region.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Kentucky and the Greater Louisville region are proud to be home to a substantial portion of the American electric vehicle (EV) production, an industry that is growing at a rapid pace. To support the increase in EVs, a visible, robust, and reliable fast-charging network across our nation's highway system must be implemented to encourage continued growth and consumer confidence. GLI encourages the federal government to continue investing in grant programs made available through the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act that support both EV charging infrastructure and investments in advanced battery manufacturing and recycling that are critical for the production of this fast-growing sector.

Estimated number of electric vehicles in use worldwide between 2016 and 2022, by type (in 1,000s)*



* Source: IEA © Statista 2024. Additional Information: Worldwide; 2016 to 2022

DEVELOP OUR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE

We encourage the federal government to pursue programs that will address the nation's truck-driver shortage and support the development of transportation workforce and the transport of goods and services in bi-state regions like Greater Louisville.

With the increase in assaults on transit workers in recent years, it is imperative that this key segment of the workforce have robust safety protections, similar to protections for airlines, which ensure safe rides for both frontline workers and riders.



Additionally, Congress should pursue legislation to significantly increase funding for major infrastructure projects and repeal language from the FAST Act that reduced the Federal Reserve dividend rate to fund infrastructure and transportation projects in the future.

INLAND WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Inland waterways play a key role in international and domestic trade. Full federal funding to support critical water infrastructure improvements is necessary to promote inland waterway commerce.

PASSENGER RAIL

With funding available from 2021's Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act, partners in Greater Louisville have received the first steps funding to expand passenger rail service in Greater Louisville. GLI encourages the federal government to continue grant funding through the Federal Railroad Administration for next steps as our community seeks to expand connectivity with other major cities that would benefit tourism, talent attraction, and economic development.

RAILROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

GLI supports increased federal funding for maintaining and improving the safety of railroad infrastructure. Dedicated resources for short line tracks and regional railroads are needed for the sustainability and improvement of multi-modal freight transportation in Greater Louisville.

WATER, WASTEWATER, STORMWATER, & FLOOD PROTECTION

Additional federal resources are sorely needed in Greater Louisville for water, wastewater, stormwater, and flood protection infrastructure. Such resources are critical not only for safety and public health but also economic development. The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides a crucial opportunity to invest in Louisville's infrastructure. GLI encourages federal support through forgivable funds through the IIJA, continued State Revolving Fund appropriations, funding for lead service line removal and grants with further consideration of definitions of disadvantaged communities, Congressional Community Project Funding (Earmarks), and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. The Federal Low Income Household Water/Wastewater Affordability Program (LIHWAP) has been especially positive for the Greater Louisville region and GLI encourages the continued funding of programs like it.

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Greater Louisville relies upon tens of millions of dollars in federal funding in support of the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) and federal grants for parks and highway projects. These funds support infrastructure improvements that include vehicles, roadway improvements, and advanced technology that provide more efficient transit service for residents. Even with these needed funds, Kentucky public transit is underfunded which hurts the further development of key economic and workforce hubs like Greater Louisville. The federal government must continue supporting public transit by fully appropriating allocated Bipartisan Infrastructure Law amount in upcoming fiscal years, supporting "plus-ups" for transit specific funding sources and reducing local match requirements for key transit programs. Congress and the USDOT must also identify new and expanded sources of funding to deal with critical maintenance backlogs and growing challenges like human services transportation and specific workforce development needs.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING & INVESTMENT

Congressional action to rebuild infrastructure is vital to the economic future of Greater Louisville and restarting our economy. In order for communities to capitalize on the available funds from the historic 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, policymakers need to take additional steps to bolster these investments including permitting reform that encourages the leverage of private capital for public infrastructure funds, workforce development, broadband spending, coordination and planning, and regulatory relief. Continued implementation and action will boost America's competitiveness and improve quality of life in the Greater Louisville region and the nation.

GLI ADVOCACY

GLI relies on hundreds of volunteers from the Greater Louisville business community to develop legislative priorities and set positions on key public policy issues that affect economic growth and workforce development. With the support of GLI's Board of Directors, GLI's Public Policy Council leads GLI's public policy efforts with the assistance of six Issue Advisory Committees. The dedicated volunteers that lead the Public Policy Council and GLI's Issue Advisory Committees and the hundreds of members who give their time are the key to GLI's success in advocating for the business community's priorities:

PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL

Chair - Les Fugate, Brown-Forman

BI-STATE ISSUES

Chair - Stephen Lukinovich, Cherry Bekaert

BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

Chair - Jim Dahlem, Dahlem Company

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair - DeVone Holt, Muhammed Ali Center

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Chair - Jennifer Cave, Stites & Harbison

HEALTH CARE

Chair - Lourdes Baez, Baptist Health

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair - David Beck, Kentucky Venues

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Vice President, Government
Affairs & Communications



OLIVIA OLSON
Senior Director,
Communications & PR



HELEN HACKER
Director, Government
Affairs & Policy

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