

2024 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Greater Iowa City, Inc. annually recommend and support positions on key policy issues affecting our region and state’s economic growth. These positions and recommendations are made with significant input from our combined 2,000 members, investors, partners, and community stakeholders.

GOAL: Embrace Solutions Utilizing Technology & Natural Resources

Businesses lead the way with innovative solutions for the economic challenges communities face. The impact of manufacturing on Iowa’s economy is significant. Manufacturing 4.0 is an innovative program that allows Iowa businesses to thrive in an era of change and utilize our rich natural resources that provide a significant global competitive edge to us.

Iowa’s use of renewable energy sources is the highest in the nation according to a recent report by the American Clean Power Association. Smart sustainability practices are key to business attraction. Companies seeking to relocate are increasingly looking to find 100% renewable energy sources to power their businesses and attract a younger workforce. It is essential policy makers work with private industry to address known and emerging cyber threats and incentivize smart cybersecurity practices. We must continue to leverage new funding sources to develop strategies and incentives that prepare workers for the future and allow businesses to grow and thrive.

Policy Solutions	Federal Policy	State Policy
Support policies, rules and regulations that encourage the production of renewable, alternative energy resources, and biomanufacturing such as ethanol, nuclear, hydrogen, solar and wind that are environmentally responsible and keep energy costs down. *	X	X
Support investments and research in automation, smart technologies, semiconductors, and cybersecurity to modernize the nation’s digital infrastructure and keep business and consumer data safe.	X	X
Support policies that leverage technology and innovation for manufacturing and educational instruction and testing to encourage further growth of the EdTech industry and Manufacturing 4.0.	X	
Open avenues for exports and international investment making it easier for Iowa’s small business owners, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and farmers to sell their products abroad.	X	X
Support policies that allow farmers and businesses within the agriculture supply chain to responsibly invest in Iowa’s natural resources.	X	X
Support common ground climate policies that are efficient, sustainable, flexible, predictable and make Iowa resilient in the face of natural disasters.	X	X
Support funding sources and flexible policies to address necessary water infrastructure improvements allowing for affordable rates and the capacity for growth.		X

*Featured Priority

To learn more, see our comprehensive 2024 state and federal public policy agenda for the ICR region at www.cedarrapids.org or www.greateriowacity.com.

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Greater Iowa City strongly encourage elected officials, candidates, and citizens to be civil in discussions and debates on policy issues and political opinions. We are committed to leading by example.

