GREATER IOWA CITY, INC.

2026 State & Federal Public Policy Agenda

Leverage Iowa's Innovation & Natural Resources for Global Competitiveness

Iowa's history of innovation and abundance of natural resources give us a global competitive edge. Iowa farmers and businesses continue to lead by feeding the world, solving community and global challenges, and preparing for tomorrow. Our higher education institutions, through strong public investment and public–private partnerships, have driven innovative solutions to economic challenges.

In 2024, Iowa exported $17 billion in goods, according to the U.S. Trade Representative. Trade policies should drive economic growth, lower costs, and protect investments for industries and businesses that rely on global supply chains. Manufacturing remains a cornerstone of Iowa's economy, and programs like Manufacturing 4.0 help businesses adapt to change while leveraging our abundant natural resources to maintain a strong global competitive edge.

Iowa also leads the nation in renewable energy production, according to the American Clean Power Association. Smart sustainability practices are critical to business growth and workforce attraction, as companies increasingly seek 100% renewable energy to power operations and appeal to younger workers. Iowa must advance energy policies that meet current and future demands to keep us competitive.

Policy Solutions	Federal Policy	State Policy
Maintain existing and open new avenues for exports and international investment to make it easier for Iowa's small business owners, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and farmers to sell their products abroad, while protecting investments for businesses reliant on global supply chains. *	✓	✓
Sustain and grow federal research investments through NIH, NSF, and NASA to support global competitiveness and equip higher education institutions to prepare Iowa's workforce for the jobs of the future.	✓	
Support policies that leverage technology and innovation for manufacturing and educational instruction and testing to encourage further growth of biosciences and Industry 4.0.	✓	✓
Support policies and regulations that promote renewable and alternative energy resources, such as ethanol, nuclear, hydrogen, solar and wind to help meet energy demands and are	✓	✓

environmentally responsible in attracting new business and workers.		
Support policies in the Farm Bill and beyond that strengthen Iowa's agricultural supply chain, ensuring reliable markets and economic growth that benefit businesses and economies in both rural and urban centers, while promoting practices that build long-term resilience.	✓	
Support policies that leverage research from education institutions and private industry experience to address known and emerging cyber threats, including risks introduced by artificial intelligence, while harnessing AI's potential to strengthen cybersecurity and incentivize smart practices that protect businesses and communities.	✓	✓

***Featured priority**