



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

WASHINGTON D.C. **BUSINESS FLY-IN**

MAY 18 - 20, 2026

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FMWF Chamber's MN & Federal Priorities for 2026



Minnesota - 2026 Legislative Priorities

Workforce:

- Continue critical investments into regional-based workforce solutions that strengthen recruitment, acclimation, development and retention.
- Enhance funding for essential child care programs, grants and initiatives, and incentivize public-private partnerships and investments to increase access to affordable and quality child care.
- Enact pragmatic reforms to child care licensing and regulations to modernize existing laws and reduce regulatory burdens on child care providers while maintaining safe and high-quality care for children.
- Expand incentives, reduce burdensome regulations, and provide communities with zoning flexibility to expand residential development and reduce the cost of market-rate and attainable workforce housing.

Education:

- Allow time-limited fund transfers throughout the K-12 educational system, provided they do not increase state aid obligations or expand district taxing authority.
- Support legislation to address physical school safety and cybersecurity needs by increasing the safe schools levy and expanding LTFMR to include safety and security measures, and expand state resources for school resource officers to ensure districts have adequate funding to support comprehensive school safety.
- Expand statewide investments into career workforce academies and high-quality work-based learning opportunities.
- Support funding for postsecondary institutions to improve campus infrastructure, enhance curriculum, and attract and retain students.
- Support programs and incentives to develop sustainable and positive communities and neighborhoods surrounding our educational assets, schools and universities.

Business:

- Reform the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act, Earned Sick and Safe Time, and other business mandates to best accommodate businesses and address their concerns.
- Reform the state's tax environment to increase Minnesota's global competitiveness and conform to pro-growth tax policies contained in the 2025 federal tax bill.
- Continue pragmatic reforms to the state's regulatory system including streamlining permitting processes, reducing burdensome regulations, and providing economic and regulatory clarity and certainty to support the development of vital economic sectors.
- Enhance programs and funding opportunities to support the Downtown Center redevelopment in Moorhead and the development of a cultural mall.
- Ensure policies, programs, initiatives and incentives are comprehensive and inclusionary of Greater Minnesota and recognize border cities, to keep Minnesota competitive.
- Enact incentives and structure the regulatory framework to support the development of a sustainable aviation fuel project in Moorhead.

Community Investments:

- Secure funding for flood mitigation projects throughout the City of Moorhead, Clay County and the Buffalo Red River Watershed District to complete the FM Diversion project.
- Secure funding for the construction of a nonsecure juvenile facility in Clay County.
- Expand funding for the Heartland Trail project starting in Moorhead and Dilworth.
- Expand statewide authorization for local communities to establish social districts.
- Support the sales tax exemption for the construction of the City of Dilworth's Community Center.
- Support the sales tax exemption for the renovation of the Moorhead City Hall.
- Secure funding for a Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade project for Moorhead and Dilworth.
- Secure funding for the West Central Regional Water District.



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.