

2018 Policy Priorities

Industry Talent Pipeline

MICHauto is focused on the development of a strong talent pipeline for the automotive industry, including training deployments for the existing workforce as well as branding and awareness of the industry as a career opportunity for prospective talent. MICHauto encourages the Legislature to prioritize increasing education and training system career pathways and counseling funding/programs; cultivating digital economy talent; and, supporting efforts to engage existing talent as well as attract new talent, including new Americans, veterans, and the structurally unemployed.

Member companies have realized tremendous value in statewide initiatives such as the Skilled Trades Training Fund and Michigan Advanced Technical Training Program. Such programs should continue to be part of the state's strategic effort towards narrowing the skills gap and ensuring that job providers can compete in the global economy. Their programs and deserve continued support to meet increasing employer demand, as well as proposals for modernizing our state's curriculum such as enhanced capital investments in career technical education equipment for students.

Connected and Automated Vehicle R&D and Testing

Michigan has long been known as the automotive capital of the world. In order to maintain this title, however, we must position the state for the emerging sectors of the automotive industry. **MICHauto seeks to ensure that Michigan remains at the forefront for companies and research institutions** with a business climate and entrepreneurial environment to lead in new technology development.

Michigan's business and political leaders must capitalize on opportunities to create public-private partnerships that encourage innovation and investment, cultivate a tax climate that rewards research and development in growth markets, and builds on the success of recent ventures such as the American Center for Mobility.

International Trade

Fair trade continues to be a pivotal issue as Michigan companies sell their products on the international stage. U.S. goods arriving in foreign markets face an average tariff of 5.9 percent, and key U.S. manufactured exports often face tariffs in the double digits in emerging markets.

MICHauto encourages productive efforts to promote fair trade through the pursuit of high-standard trade agreements and addressing markets where foreign governments have erected barriers against U.S. goods and services. Such efforts, however, must caution against unnecessarily bold actions that could increase prospects of a trade war, which could threaten our economic momentum, provoke retaliation from trade partners, and alienate our strongest global allies.

The **North American Free Trade Agreement** has provided consumers across the United States, Canada and Mexico consumers with access to more abundant and affordable products and services, and value chains have become integrated as many products cross the border multiple times prior to a finished product.

Michigan companies would be adversely affected by a non-renewal of NAFTA or a substantial departure from its core principles. **MICHauto encourages the United States' continued participation in NAFTA**, exploring favorable adjustments in areas such as digital trade and intellectual property, and ensuring that U.S. trade agreements are consistently and faithfully enforced.