



Federal Agenda

2022 

[GLI] GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.
The Metro Chamber of Commerce

GLI 2022-2023 Federal Priorities

As the world and the Greater Louisville community adapt to a changing pandemic and working environment, Greater Louisville Inc. will focus our federal advocacy efforts on key issues that support continued economic growth, encourage workforce participation, and develop an environment that enables our businesses to thrive. GLI takes positions on policy issues that build a more prosperous and inclusive region. Our key positions are outlined in this document.

Federal Legislative Policies at a Glance

Business Competitiveness

- Review and repeal burdensome banking regulations.
- Provide regulatory clarity for entrepreneurs who rely on blockchain technology.
- Continue federal programs to subsidize broadband services for low-income consumers.
- Establish federal data security and privacy protection framework.
- Federal labor regulations should include flexibility for different business types.
- Continue federal funding to support regional arts programs.
- Encourage monetary policy to reduce 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.
- Expand and make permanent funding for New Markets Tax Credit and Opportunity Zones.
- Ensure solvency of multiemployer pension system.
- Establish safeguards to protect transparency and privacy protection to protect the open internet.
- Fully fund Small Business Development Centers.
- Protect private sector's ability to diversify supply chains and remove new barriers to trade.
- Retain the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and make reforms to further economic growth.

Education & Workforce Development

- Enact reforms to increase legal immigration to address country's workforce shortage.
- Reform criminal justice to focus on rehabilitation, re-entry, and training.
- Increase federal resources for reskilling and retraining initiatives.
- Increase federal funding to enable access to high-quality early childhood education.
- Support legislation to expand access to reliable and quality child care.
- Encourage Congress to mitigate negative effect of rising student loan debt on economic growth.
- Support funding for HBCU's.
- Invest in initiatives to build education and training pipelines for healthcare professionals.
- Support higher education funding to promote access to more students.
- Encourage funding for research and innovation to enhance global competitiveness of the region.
- Pass legislation to increase support for employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Increase funding for grants to encourage STEAM education and workforce programs.
- Continue funding for supported employment initiatives to alleviate workforce shortages.
- Support programs focused on apprenticeships.
- Allocate additional funding for business led workforce boards.

Environment & Energy

- Ensure EPA's response to PFAs regulations is appropriate.
- Include realistic transition plans for CLEAN future act, if adopted.
- Continue grant funding for cleanup of Brownfields.
- Ensure energy costs are kept low.
- Encourage close review of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Streamline environmental regulations and provide flexibility during times of emergency and economic recovery.
- Incentivize innovation and growth in the energy industry.
- Continue use of Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to benefit the overall community.
- Support "waters of the U.S." definition that balances environmental protection and economic development.

Health Care

- Allow more flexibility under the Affordable Care Act's shared responsibility provisions.
- Support Association Health Plans by providing more flexibility under ERISA.
- Enact legislation that allows for telehealth and flexibility with Medicaid, Medicare, and Medicare Advantage Plans.
- Increase resources for mental health treatment and research.
- Support healthcare infrastructure during COVID-19 recovery.
- 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.
- Enact legislation to support development of transportation workforce.
- Support public transit with a multi-year transportation authorization bill and federal grant programs.
- Continue funding for major infrastructure projects.
- Fully fund critical inland water infrastructure improvements.
- Increase federal funding to maintain and improve safety of railroad infrastructure.
- Increase resources for water, wastewater, stormwater, and flood protection infrastructure.

Policies To Fight Inflation

Our economy is seeing the highest levels of inflation in decades which continues to chip away at the buying power for households and businesses, leading to rising costs in housing, food, and energy. All of these effects make it difficult for companies to get ahead.

Here are some of the ways GLI's 2022-2023 Federal Agenda encourages policymakers to fight inflation:

- Monetary policy is the most effective tool to fight inflation, but policymakers should also consider easing regulations, reducing tariffs, and increasing domestic energy production.
- We need a commitment to increased energy production to assure the energy industry that increased investments will not be met with efforts to decrease or end production in the years ahead.
- Policymakers must work to transition to renewable energy sources to ensure future energy security.

Business Competitiveness



Shelby Somervell discusses supply chain issues and inflation with Ambassador Kelly Craft and the US Chamber.

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 banks 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

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 AND 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.

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, boost tourism, and sustain a positive quality of life for our citizens.

INFLATION

After two years of the global COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 has now seen record levels of inflation across the country. This troubling trend can be attributed to many factors exacerbated by the pandemic including increased consumer demand, supply chain disruptions, and monetary policy.

While infusions into the financial system were necessary to prevent a financial crisis during the pandemic, we encourage the Biden 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 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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property has been a driver of economic growth as our nation and world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. While protection for intellectual property has improved internationally in recent years, 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."

JOINT EMPLOYER

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

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 removal of the European Union's and United Kingdom's retaliatory tariffs on bourbon, Kentucky's signature industry. To ensure fairness in free trade, GLI supports efforts by federal policymakers to deter currency manipulation.

INVESTMENT AND 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.

MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLAN REFORM

GLI supports reforms to the multiemployer pension system that are fair and reasonable for workers, employers, and the American taxpayer. The Central States Pension Fund covers thousands of Kentuckians and more than 377,000 workers throughout the country. Insolvency would be devastating to participants and our regional economy and would put jobs and businesses at risk.

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.

SUPPLY CHAIN

Supply chain disruptions and material shortages have become commonplace and have a major impact on small businesses, affecting their ability to keep pace with customer demands. GLI encourages the federal government to ensure that their policies protect the private sector's ability to diversify supply chains and address interruptions and that policy does not introduce new barriers to trade.

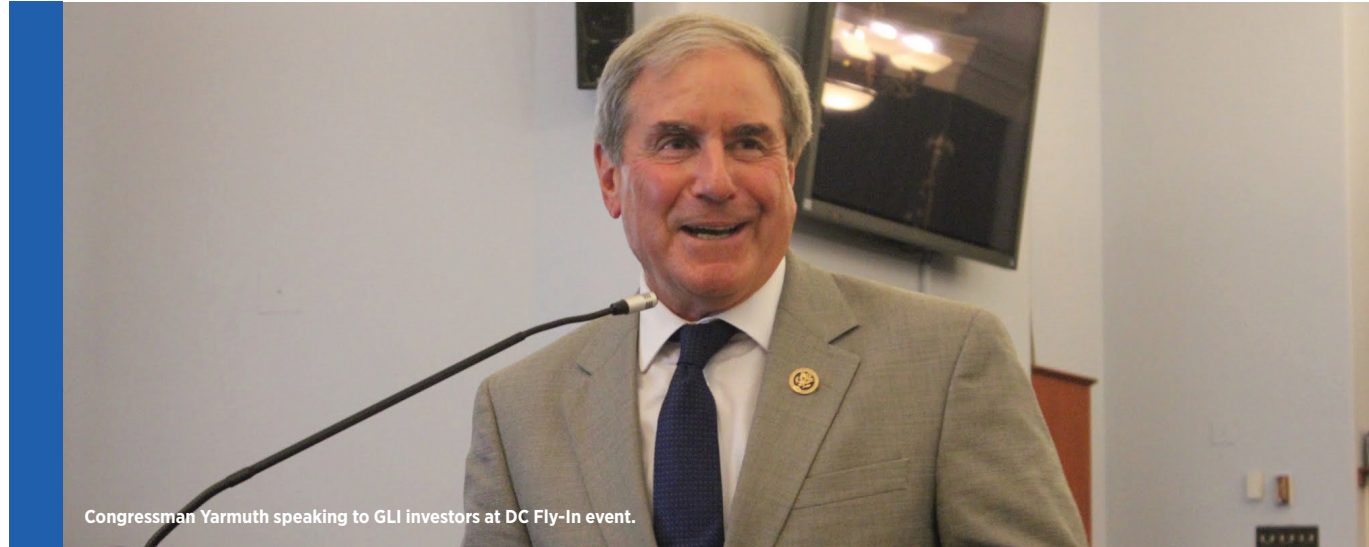
TAX REFORM

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:

- Permanently remove limitations on the business interest expense deduction.
- Make permanent the federal alcohol excise tax rates established by TCJA.
- Make permanent the full expensing of new capital assets to encourage business investment and manufacturing.

Congress must also be cognizant of and refrain from further 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 emerges from the pandemic and grapples with record inflation levels and supply chain disruptions, Congress must address the serious fiscal challenges we face.

Education & Workforce Development



Congressman Yarmuth speaking to GLI investors at DC Fly-In event.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

GLI supports comprehensive immigration reform to ensure our region can continue attracting talent from around the world and opposes efforts that would restrict the ability of regional employers to find and employ the workers they need. In today's exceptionally tight labor market, decreased legal immigration has contributed to stifling our economy. Without an increase in legal immigration, our economy will struggle to contain inflation, unclog supply chains, and fully grow and remain competitive.

Comprehensive immigration reform as a means to address the workforce shortage in our region and the entire country should include streamlined and equitable pathways to citizenship, allowing businesses to recruit high-skill workers from around the world, a federal employment verification system that is efficient and easy to use for employers, and preserving DACA to protect Dreamers from the threat of detention and deportation, allowing the estimated 11 million people affected to stably engage in the workforce.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Criminal justice reform is vital to workforce development efforts in regions like greater Louisville. Congress should build on legislative achievements such as the First Step Act to continue refocusing our criminal justice system on rehabilitation, reintegration, and training.

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.

As we recover from COVID-19, it is critical to get people back into the workforce. While workforce participation has been a long-term concern, an active and skilled workforce is imperative to a successful post-pandemic recovery. Return to work incentives should be encouraged and disincentives to work should be identified and eradicated.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

GLI supports recent increases to federal funding for early childhood education and development through resources such as the Child Care Development Block Grant. Congress should build on these funding levels to increase access to high-quality early childhood education programming, support the early childhood educator workforce, and to remove childcare as a barrier to workforce participation. Increasing access to pre-kindergarten programming through a mixed-delivery model incorporating public preschool, Head Start, and private child care while resourcing quality improvements across the early childhood ecosystem should remain a priority.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

Affordable childcare continues to be a serious barrier to entry and re-entry into the workforce. The pandemic has exacerbated this issue with an ongoing shortage of childcare workers and childcare facilities. GLI supports federal legislation aimed at expanding accessible, reliable, and quality childcare and encourages federal, state, and local governments to work with the private sector to streamline and provide support for the expansion of childcare.

FINANCIAL AID AND 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.

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Healthcare providers face widespread shortage of qualified healthcare professionals. The problem is especially dire for qualified nurses. GLI encourages federal investment in existing and new federal initiatives to help identify and build pipelines for recruitment, education, and training of nurses at all levels.

POSTSECONDARY 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 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 AND 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 Kentuckiana region's industries, colleges, and universities. Our region relies on technology-based innovation, such as development of new drugs and therapies, new ways to automate manufacturing, and advances in artificial intelligence for economic competitiveness.

SECOND CHANCE HIRING

Federal legislation should be passed to increase support for employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals through second chance hiring, occupational licensing reform, and similar initiatives to increase workforce participation among this population and decrease recidivism.

STEAM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

STEAM 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.

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.

THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

GLI encourages Congress to allocate additional funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 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.

“A skilled and educated workforce is critical to the continued growth of the Greater Louisville region. Now more than ever, we need innovative policies that will prepare future generations for careers in emerging and high-growth fields. GLI pursues policies that support a long-term strategy to create a strong homegrown workforce and attract and retain new talent to address our region's acute talent shortage.”

– Kevin Smith

Education and Workforce Committee Chair

Environment & Energy



APPROPRIATE TREATMENT STRATEGIES AND 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.

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. GLI supports 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.

GREEN HOUSE GAS REGULATION

As greenhouse gas emission policy is discussed, GLI encourages all policy makers 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

GLI encourages regulators and legislators to closely review updates to fine particulate matter (PM2.5), including its application in ancillary rule makings such as the CLEAN Future Act. Adjustments to PM2.5, in particular the definition of "Overburdened Census Tract" with its standard and requirements if the standard is not met, could be detrimental to many major employers in Greater Louisville. GLI also encourages close review of Ozone standards. Greater Louisville is working towards attainment to the 2015 standard and the limit is currently impacted by background emissions outside the control of local sources. As GLI and residents in Kentucky are impacted by the Good Neighbor Plan transport rule, policy makers should carefully assess benefits and the impacts derived from significant NOx allocation restrictions in the coming years.

REGULATORY REFORMS

Regulatory streamlining and flexibility are critical to support businesses during times of emergency and economic recoveries. 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 present in the current system. It is imperative that reforms 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.

While the US has an 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 Biden Administration to actively establish a domestic supply chain for critical minerals to support growth for electric vehicle and technology markets, among many others.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

As part of an environmental violation settlement, an alleged violator may propose to undertake a project to provide tangible environmental or public health benefits to the affected community or environment, that is closely related to the violation being resolved, but goes beyond what is required under federal, state, or local laws. This voluntary agreement can include a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) that is considered in determining an appropriate settlement penalty. GLI supports the continued use of SEPs as a way for the regulated community to benefit the overall community or the environment as they return to compliance.

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

MEDICARE AND 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, Medicare, and Medicare Advantage Plans and expand offerings for affordable and accessible care to beneficiaries.

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.

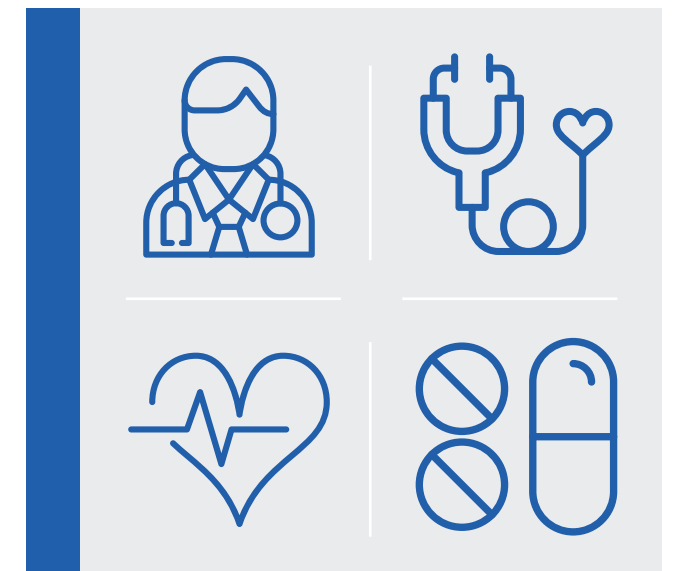
GLI also encourages continual and regularly scheduled appropriations of resources to fund comprehensive treatment and recovery programs for substance use disorders.

PUBLIC HEALTH

GLI strongly supports the continued dedication of federal resources to protecting public health, including funding for:

- Maintaining access to testing for COVID-19.
- Continued streamlining of the development of scalable vaccines, therapeutics, and treatment strategies for COVID-19.
- Ensuring ample access to supplies of personal protective equipment to protect our regional health care workers and their patients.

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. This includes ensuring there is no erosion of the intended purposes of the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act.



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. During the Public Health Emergency, regulatory requirements were relaxed, which allowed patients to receive necessary health-care in a virtual environment. We urge Congress to continue efforts to ensure 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.

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

The market share of electric vehicles (EV) continues to grow both nationally and locally, with significant investments in EV production announced in Kentucky over the past year. 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 applauds the significant investment in EV infrastructure included in last year's Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act and encourages similar funding to support this growing market demand.

DEVELOP OUR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE

Public transportation agencies and private businesses rely on professional drivers and are facing acute workforce shortages, contributing to more delays in supply chains and

materials. GLI applauds the establishment of the Safe Drive Apprenticeship Pilot Program, which removes outdated age restrictions on interstate transportation for licensed commercial drivers and improves safety standards. We encourage the federal government to pursue similar 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.

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. The federal government must continue supporting public transit with a multi-year transportation authorization bill and through federal grant programs such as RAISE to support the maintenance and growth of public transit systems in key economic and workforce hubs like Greater Louisville.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AND INVESTMENT

Congressional action to rebuild infrastructure is vital to the economic future of Greater Louisville and restarting our economy. GLI applauds the passage of the bi-partisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which provided historic funding for roads, bridges and highways and allocated more than \$5 billion in funding for Kentucky and \$8 billion for Indiana. 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 addition, lawmakers should streamline permitting processes and remove barriers that prevent the leverage of private capital for public infrastructure projects.

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.

RAILROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

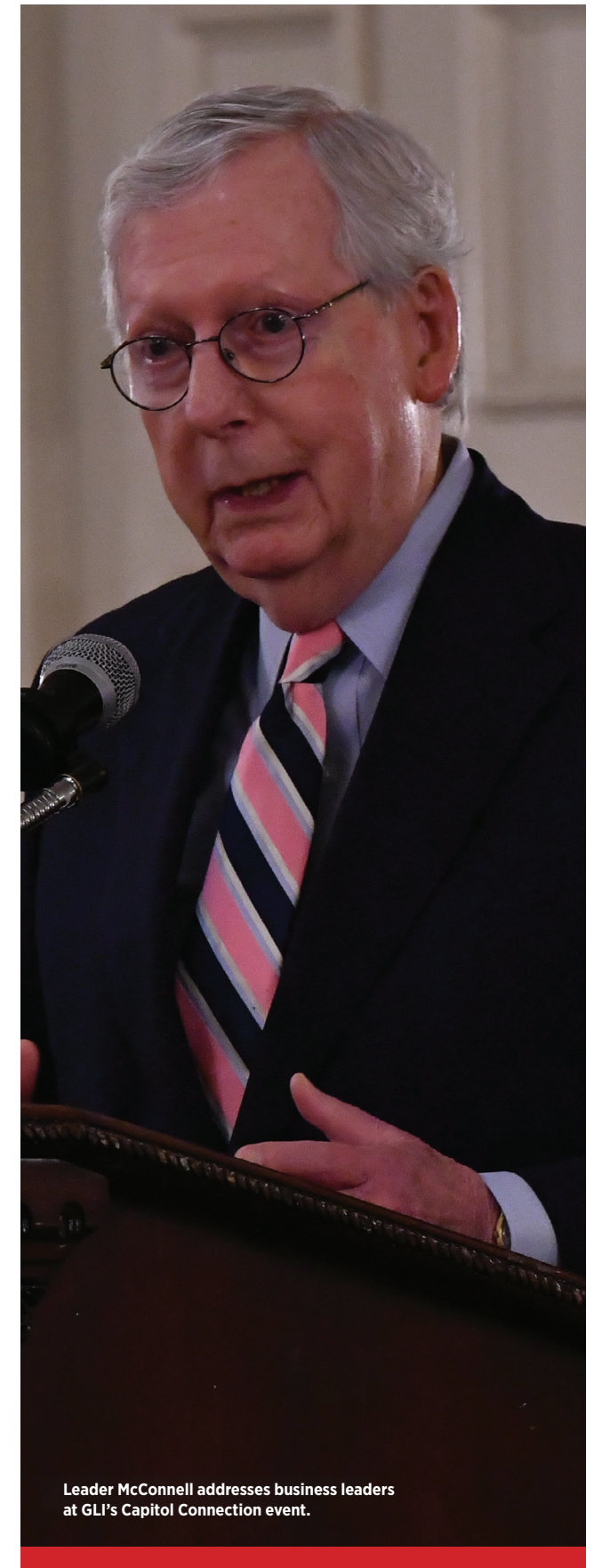
GLI supports increased federal funding for maintaining and improving the safety of railroad infrastructure. Dedicated resources for short line tracks and regional railroads are needed for the sustainability and improvement of multi-modal freight transportation in Greater Louisville.

WATER, WASTEWATER, STORMWATER, AND 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, and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act.

"In a highly-connected and digital world, advanced and reliable transportation and infrastructure is critical to a region's development. GLI prioritizes policies that not only physically connect our region with the world and support our signature industries, but that also allow us to keep up with digital trends and emerging industry clusters. By advocating for public transportation, investment in our roads, bridges, and airports, and broader access to internet, GLI helps Louisville keep up and compete with peer regions."

— Chris Dickinson, P.E.
Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee Chair



Leader McConnell addresses business leaders at GLI's Capitol Connection event.

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 Tim Hagerty, Frost Brown Todd

Bi-State Issues – Chair Lourdes Baez, Baptist Health

Business Competitiveness – Co-Chairs Jim Dahlem, Dahlem Company and Dr. OJ Oleka, AIKCU

Education and Workforce Development – Chair Kevin Smith, Beam Suntory

Energy and Environment – Chair Jennifer Cave, Stites & Harbison

Health Care – Chair Riggs Lewis, Norton Healthcare

Transportation and Infrastructure – Chair Chris Dickinson, Geosyntec

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