

Workforce Issues

Your team is the face of your business. **You negotiate issues like wages and benefits with employees either collectively or individually.** The legislature should not attempt to dictate one-size-fits-all labor mandates. With baby boomers retiring and leaving holes in your workforce, lawmakers need to focus on developing quality, educated employees who are ready to step in and lead in a new economy.

Health Care

Health care is one of the largest expenses facing your business. From the smallest convenience store to the largest food manufacturer, you and your peers are concerned about the cost and effectiveness of health care as well as the systemic societal issues driving the debate. **A long term comprehensive health care policy must work toward genuine consumer based solutions and promote preventative medicine in order to contain costs.**

Taxes and the Budget

The state is facing a \$6.2 billion shortfall in 2012-13. When your business faces tough economic conditions, you are forced to make tough decisions in the areas of workforce, product costs, and services to ensure you stay viable. **Government must do the same.** Each area of government must assess and restructure in order to permanently reduce expenses. Placing the burden back on businesses and citizens in the form of taxes or increased fees is an unacceptable short term solution.

Sustainability

Environmental legislation comes in many different forms. There are bans on certain materials or unrealistic product stewardship frameworks. Some lawmakers promote cumbersome, mandatory take-back programs with excessive record-keeping, placing undue burdens on your operations. **You provide voluntary positive environmental programs and proactively educate consumers on green practices.** Government must allow private sector programs and partnerships to develop and thrive.

Energy

Everyday, you are innovatively reducing energy consumption through conservation programs or energy efficient equipment. Alternative sources of energy are necessary, but the price of development cannot harm your bottom line. It is imperative that this investment in the future is done with an eye on the present. Electrical power must stay **abundant and affordable** for your business to continue moving forward.

Competitiveness

Laws must change over time in order to allow **Minnesota businesses to be more efficient and save money.** Systems based on outdated foundations do not create a competitive marketplace that allows you to bring consumers the best service and prices. To fix that, government must:

- Work to regulate **interchange fees**
- Significantly reduce **organized retail crime**
- Re-evaluate antiquated **liquor laws**