



CITC Policy Issues

Through CITC, member industrial associations can amplify their voice in Sacramento on the issues important to today's business owners and operators. Conversely, CITC participants can help attract attention and response from the State Capital to local policy issues that often start at the grassroots level. Here are some examples of policy issues upon which CITC can make an important impact:

Taxes and Budget

- California's tax policies must encourage the expansion of an economic base sufficient to fund essential government services both now and in the future.
- State and local budgets should be balanced within existing revenues.
- California's policies must foster investment incentives and employment in the manufacturing sector.
- State tax laws affecting manufacturers must at least be comparable with tax laws in competing jurisdictions.
- State and local tax laws and regulations should be uniformly and fairly administered across all intrastate jurisdictions.

Workplace Issues

- Workplace safety requirements must provide employees with a safe work environment and be fair, reasonable and competitive.
- California must have a fair, reasonable and competitive means of providing medical coverage, retraining and disability support for workers legitimately injured as a result of workplace circumstances.
- Mandated employer-paid benefits must not exceed those imposed by competing states or adversely impact the creation and retention of jobs in California.
- State labor laws and regulations must be reasonable and permit California employers and employees to compete on equal basis with non-California employers.

Education

- State and local education policy reforms should make career and technical education an integral part of every student's education.
- California must be committed to creating and maintaining a literate, skilled and trained workforce.
- Maximum flexibility in workplace skills and training is needed to meet future economic changes.
- Dramatic and rapid shifts in market demands and influences require continuous educational responses and retraining of the workforce
- The California educational system must evaluate students, teachers, administrators, schools and districts according to their performance and hold them accountable for results.
- State policies should promote teaching as an honored, respected and well-paid profession whereby instructors are compensated according to their ability, experience, results and responsibilities.
- Schools must be able to integrate technology into instruction and management.

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Energy

- California businesses need a reliable and affordable energy supply.
- Public utility rates for each customer class must be based on the cost of providing services to that class.
- Energy prices should be determined fairly by the competitive market.
- Consumers must be able to choose competitive suppliers for energy and other services unbundled from regulated utility services.
- Energy market policies should encourage conservation, energy efficiency, customer demand responsiveness, and adequate supplies
- Regulated public utility costs and operations must be predictable, affordable and equitably priced.
- Public utility governance should be stable, fair and cost effective
- Public utilities should be prohibited from exercising undue market influence in the competitive market for energy services.
- Public utility regulations should encourage public utilities to keep costs as low as possible while maintaining quality of service and investing in infrastructure for growth.


Corporate Liability

- California's laws and legal system must permit California employers and citizens to effectively compete with other jurisdictions.
- California's laws, regulations, and other guidance should be readily available, clear and consistent.
- Civil justice policies must discourage use of the court system for harassment purposes or to pursue repetitive or frivolous claims.
- Penalties, fines and costs should be proportionate to the level of harm and not duplicative.
- Civil sanctions should be premised upon fairness, constitutional protections and presumptions.
- California should encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution where appropriate.

Environment

- Regulators must work cooperatively with permittees to ensure that permitting procedures are efficient and effective; and that permits are processed in a timely manner.
- Legislative and regulatory proposals should be based on sound scientific principles demonstrate measurable and meaningful improvement to public health and the environment and ensure the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and incomes.
- Legislative and regulatory proposals should take into account their impact on employment and the global competitiveness of California's business community.
- Legislative and regulatory proposals should be cost-effective, consistent with other statewide laws and regulations, and coordinated with federal programs so as not to create duplicative management systems.
- The regulated community should be provided flexibility to achieve compliance through performance-based standards and alternative compliance programs.
- The scope of regulations should not exceed the intent of enacting legislation

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- Prior to imposing state or local standards that are more stringent or significantly different from federal standards, the administering agency must demonstrate a justifiable benefit.
 - Enforcement programs must be implemented in a fair and consistent manner, emphasizing compliance rather than fines and penalties. Where penalties are necessary and appropriate, they must reflect the culpability of the violator and the degree of harm to public health and the environment.

Infrastructure

- California must have adequate highways, alternative forms of transportation, streets, roads, ports, bridges, dams, water systems, sewers, hospitals, schools, housing, parks, power plants, electric transmission lines, gas transportation lines and communications networks.
- California must develop and implement a comprehensive and long-range plan to provide broad-based funding support for the updating and expansion of its infrastructure.
- California manufacturers must have adequate waste disposal capacity available for all waste generated in state.

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