



2017 Legislative Agenda

1. **Workers Compensation** – Last year the Florida Supreme Court reviewed a case related to the previous Worker’s Comp Law. The Court threw out the statute which limited the liabilities of employers. The effect is that all Florida businesses have been significantly impacted. Worker’s Comp insurance will increase 14.5% this year alone and is projected to increase by up to nearly 40% as a result of this decision. While the decision is clearly another case of the court legislating from the bench, the legislature must take action to modify and reverse some of the impacts that businesses are now being challenged with paying.
2. **Marijuana policy** – During the recent election, the voters approved a State Constitutional Amendment to allow the use of marijuana as a relief drug for terminally ill patients. The legislature will have to develop a statute for the implementation of the law. The new law does not and will not legalize the drug for open uses other than specifically outlined in the amendment approved by the electorate. We are monitoring this legislation to ensure, to the best of our ability, that our businesses will still have rights to set drug policies over their employees and facilities.
3. **Cabinet Position for Manufacturing and Logistics** – The State of Florida has been active in the development of policies to encourage the development and expansion of manufacturing. The changes in

Washington will be focused on keep manufacturing and growing manufacturing businesses in Florida. The workforce of manufacturers, logistics and ports represent about 20% of the State's worker's. This sector of the economy deserves a cabinet position to join the Governor, CFO, Attorney General and Commissioner of Agriculture. The position would be an ongoing voice and representative for manufacturers into the future.

4. **FloridaMakes Funding** – FloridaMakes is our partner in the Manufacturer's Exchange Program. The program helps our association develop training for workers in our section of the economy. Additionally, FloridaMakes provides business advisors to help smaller companies develop plans to grow. Funding from the State will release matching funds for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

5. **Qualified Targeted Industry (QTI) Funding** – The funding request is for \$12MM. These funds are available to business to train workers in targeted industries (including manufacturing).

6. **Sales Tax Exemption on Commercial Rentals** - Florida is the only state that has a tax on commercial and industrial property rentals. The tax is a sales tax which adds to the cost of business and discourages manufacturers from growing their businesses or relocate in the State of Florida.

7. **FDEP Spill Regulation** – The State imposed a new regulation applied to businesses that could potentially spill various hazardous liquids. The rule was dismissed by an Administrative Judge at the end of last year, however legislation is being proposed that will bring the policy back. We want impact the policy to minimize the negative exposure to manufacturers.