



The OMA provides a single voice for all manufacturers, be they large or small... The

OMA is the one organization that speaks exclusively for manufacturers. By being more than 2,000 voices strong, the OMA can speak louder for manufacturers as a whole than any one member can on its own.

David Johnson
President & CEO
Summitville Tiles, Inc.
Summitville, Ohio

For more information

OMA Public Policy Services
33 N. High Street, Suite 600
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(800) 662-4463
(614) 224-5111
www.ohiomfg.com

Eric Burkland, President
eburkland@ohiomfg.com

David Hansen, Managing
Director of Public Policy
Services
dhansen@ohiomfg.com



obsolete

The Ohio
Manufacturers'
Association



Competitiveness
Agenda
2004

Every business sector needs an effective advocate to advance its interests and protect its ability to be successful. I am proud to say that **The Ohio Manufacturers' Association** is one of the best teams at advancing the interests of its members anywhere.

Robert J. (Bob) Lapp
Vice President, Government Affairs
The Timken Company, Canton, Ohio



Workers' Compensation

Competitiveness Challenge

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation must continue to provide a successful investment strategy, increased management efficiency and streamlined processes to meet the needs and challenges of Ohio manufacturers and their employees.

Manufacturing Public Policy Agenda

A predictable, fair, and efficient workers' compensation system in Ohio will reduce fraud while providing injured employees with quality care that will return them to work in an optimal amount of time.

- Restore workers' compensation exclusivity by tightening the effective definition of intentional tort.
- Require physical injury before allowance of psychiatric claim.
- Curtail voluntary dismissal of employer's appeal to court.

Direct the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Industrial Commission of Ohio to develop a process for timely and fair resolution of pneumoconiosis/asbestos-related claims.

- Restore the original intent for permanent total disability and set consistent, statewide criteria for permanent total disability compensation.
- Reduce claim life to 5 years from injury or diagnosis, or treatment in case of occupational diseases.

Benefit to Ohio

Manufacturers need a workers' compensation system that provides the best possible service at the most reasonable price. An efficient and fair workers' compensation system will help Ohio retain and grow its manufacturing base.

Taxation

Competitiveness Challenge

Ohio manufacturers need a reasonable and equitable tax structure that encourages economic growth and prosperity in Ohio.

Manufacturing Public Policy Agenda

Due to an outdated Ohio tax structure, Ohio manufacturers face a high tax burden that punishes capital investment. The current tax structure reduces capital investment, hinders manufacturing productivity and stagnates the economic growth of Ohio.

- Eliminate the personal property tax – or at least eliminate the tax for all new machinery and equipment investment in Ohio.
- Repeal de-coupling from federal bonus depreciation and investment expensing provisions.

Reinstate the inventory tax phase-out for 2004.

- Eliminate net-worth base for the corporate franchise tax.
- Constitutionally limit annual growth of state and local government receipts.
- Broaden franchise and personal income tax base through reduction in credits and exemptions, and lower rates for both corporate and personal income tax.
- Broaden the sales-tax base and lower the sales-tax rate.

Benefit to Ohio

Comprehensive tax reform in Ohio will allow manufacturers to be more competitive in today's global marketplace. The recommended reforms to the tax structure will encourage economic growth and prosperity while still providing quality educational and government services in Ohio.

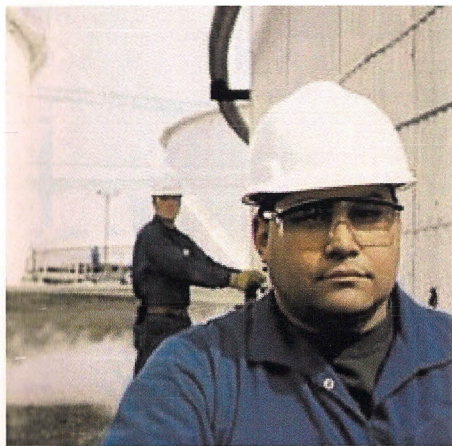
Energy

Competitiveness Challenge

Access to reliable and economical energy resources, including electricity and natural gas, is crucial for Ohio manufacturers to be productive and profitable.

Manufacturing Public Policy Agenda

A well-functioning competitive energy marketplace should enhance the availability of reliable and economical energy resources. As Ohio continues to move from a quasi-regulated electric market to openly competitive retail and wholesale markets, the competitive viability and robustness of the electric marketplace will directly impact Ohio's ability to attract new business investment and retain existing manufacturers.



Adopt an enforcement mechanism for realizing OCR 4928.12 – the statutory requirement for utilities to join an RTO (Regional Transmission Organization).

- Adopt an enforceable requirement that all Ohio utilities be served by one RTO.
- Recruit support from the Bush Administration and Ohio's congressional delegation to pass federal legislation giving FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) the authority to order a single RTO for the manufacturing Midwest.
- Require the Ohio Power Siting Board to process applications for new or upgraded electric transmission lines in nine months or less.

Education & Workforce Development

Competitiveness Challenge

To succeed in today's global marketplace, manufacturers must have highly skilled employees.

Manufacturing Public Policy Agenda

Ohio's educational system and workforce development programs must provide a workforce that can produce results in today's highly skilled, technology-focused manufacturing operations.

- Promote an enlarged leadership role for the Ohio Department of Development in the state's workforce development system, providing an economic development focus for the system.
- Support rapid implementation of the Governor's Workforce Policy Board's strategic plan, "Advance Ohio," to improve the productivity of the state's workforce development system.
- Implement industry-developed national skills standards across the state's education and workforce development systems, creating the supply of technical skills necessary in modern manufacturing.
- Encourage the development of local industry-driven pre-employment training systems, modeled after the successful Licking Valley JVS program.
- Promote accelerated implementation of quality systems (such as the proven Baldrige in Education model) within school districts across the state.

Benefit to Ohio

An educated, motivated and results-orientated workforce will encourage manufacturers to remain and relocate to Ohio. All Ohioans will benefit from the new jobs and economic prosperity created by the development of a well-trained manufacturing workforce in Ohio.