



The Value of OMA Advocacy

The actions – or inactions – of state policymakers profoundly impact Ohio’s manufacturing community. That’s why The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association’s primary role is to represent your interests. The OMA’s advocacy efforts save you money, reduce government burdens, expand your talent, and help you solve regulatory matters that can impede your business.

With its respected public policy staff, the OMA focuses on the legislative, regulatory, and judicial issues common to Ohio manufacturers. Our priority areas of focus include:



Energy



Environment



**HR &
Employment Law**



**Safety &
Workers'
Compensation**



Tax & Finance



Workforce

The OMA continually monitors legislative activity in the Ohio House and Senate, as well as actions within the executive branch. OMA staff members are in close contact with policymakers and agency leaders to ensure that Ohio manufacturers – regardless of size or sector – have a strong voice throughout state government. The association also works closely with the National Association of Manufacturers to keep members abreast of key federal developments.

This publication provides a summary of the OMA’s recent advocacy results for manufacturers.

Front page photos. Upper left: Stephanie McCloud, now the chief of staff to Gov. Mike DeWine, visits the OMA as administrator and CEO of Ohio BWC. Right: Sharon Kennedy, now chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, shares her priorities for the Court with the OMA board. Lower left: Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) visits the OMA to discuss legislation before his chamber.



Left: Gov. Mike DeWine visits the OMA board, greeted by Ryan Augsbuger, OMA president, and Dale Laws, vice president of manufacturing operations at Whirlpool Corp.
 Middle: OMA board member David Johnson, CEO of Summitville Tiles, testifies at the Ohio Statehouse.
 Right: OMA board member Emily Elizer, director of government affairs for PPG Industries, meets with Lt. Gov. Jon Husted.

Here's a snapshot of recent OMA advocacy that has helped keep Ohio the best state for manufacturing.

ISSUE	OMA ACTION	RESULTS FOR MEMBERS
Defending Employers' Hiring Rights	The OMA helped defeat legislation that would have forced defined manufacturers in Ohio to hire union workers, creating a precedent that could have impacted other industries.	Prevented new hiring mandates on manufacturers, derailing penalties of up to \$10,000 per day, per violation for non-compliance.
Defending Market-Based Energy Policy	The OMA is a stalwart defender and promoter of energy markets. In recent years, the OMA led the charge to oppose the now infamous nuclear power bailout, House Bill 6, and its utility subsidies – funded by manufacturers and other electricity customers. The OMA worked to repeal HB 6's nuclear subsidies and other costly provisions. Also, the OMA helped defeat a harmful ratemaking overhaul that would have increased electricity costs.	Saves more than \$2 billion in customer charges over multiple years, in addition to \$27.5 million in refunded charges. <i>(Source: OMA studies conducted by RunnerStone LLC)</i>
Ensuring a Competitive Tax Structure	The OMA works to defeat proposals that would impose higher taxes on manufacturers and make Ohio less competitive. The OMA led reforms that eliminated taxes on machinery, inventory, furniture and fixtures, while repealing the state's corporate tax. The OMA has supported multiple reductions in the personal income tax rates – paid by pass-through entities – while defending the broad-based, low-rate commercial activity tax (CAT).	Billions of dollars and counting every year. Recent examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeal of employment services tax, worth \$303 million over two years. • Personal income tax relief of \$1.7 billion over two years. <i>(Source: LSC budget document)</i>
Preserving a Lean Workers' Comp System	An efficient workers' compensation system benefits workers, employers, and the economy. In recent years, the OMA advocated for an alternate solution to prevent a costly employer-funded expansion to pay for treatment of PTSD without accompanying physical injury.	\$44 million in annual savings to the workers' compensation system. <i>(Source: LSC fiscal note)</i>
Expanding Manufacturing Workforce Training	The OMA has dedicated significant resources to modernize the way Ohio develops its manufacturing workforce. Recent examples include the OMA's efforts to ensure adequate funding for Ohio TechCred, which reimburses employers to upskill employees. This is in addition to the OMA's ongoing work to expand earn-and-learn opportunities, coordinate training programs across Ohio, broaden the talent pool, and introduce students and career-switchers to manufacturing.	Recent examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 million for employer reimbursements under TechCred. • \$41 million to fund industry-recognized credentials for high school students. <i>(Source: LSC budget document)</i>



Left: U.S. Sen. JD Vance (R-OH) briefs the OMA Government Affairs Committee on his priorities.
 Middle: Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost discusses matters with OMA member Tayte Lutz, vice president of French Oil Mill Machinery Co.
 Right: OMA board member Brad Belden, president of The Belden Brick Company, testifies at the Statehouse on OMA energy priorities.

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Growing Ohio's Manufacturing Workforce Partnerships	The OMA helped spearhead the development and funding of the state's Industry Sector Partnership Grant Program to enhance manufacturing-led partnerships and their workforce development efforts. The OMA also worked to ensure adequate funding for Ohio's Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEPs).	\$10 million for Ohio's Industry Sector Partnerships over the past two state budgets. <i>(Source: LSC budget summary)</i>
Enhancing Ohio's PPE Manufacturing & Reshoring Initiatives	During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OMA worked with the DeWine administration to establish the Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant Program to help small and medium-sized manufacturers repurpose existing facilities to make personal protective equipment and other essential products, as well as to reshore PPE production to Ohio.	\$20 million invested in Ohio's manufacturing sector.
Avoiding Significant Increases in Unemployment Insurance Costs	The OMA lobbied in support of a plan to use federal funds to repay approximately \$1.5 billion loaned to Ohio during COVID-19 to cover unemployment insurance (UI) costs – which are otherwise fully funded by employers. This avoided what would have been a massive UI tax increase on manufacturers. The OMA continues to work to address the UI trust fund's long-term solvency.	Approximately \$1.5 billion in savings for Ohio employers over several years. <i>(Source: LSC summary of HB 168)</i>
Supporting a Fair, Predictable Legal Climate	Manufacturers must be free to innovate without fear of unreasonable exposure to costly lawsuits. The OMA has successfully lobbied for reforms to Ohio's civil justice laws to protect employers from frivolous lawsuits, including product liability, asbestos exposure, public nuisance, intentional tort, and other types of claims, most recently including protections from certain COVID-19-related actions.	Hundreds of millions of dollars per year in reduced insurance premiums and direct litigation costs.
Pushing Back on Excessive Environmental Regulation	The OMA consistently urges policymakers to exercise restraint in establishing environmental regulations – and to rely upon science-based evidence. The OMA pushes back against industry-wide regulatory overreach and works to find solutions to company-specific issues affecting air, water, and solid waste permits.	Significant savings to manufacturers on an annual basis.
Preserving Employers' Contract Rights	The OMA helped block legislation that would have imposed state-mandated payment terms in private construction contracts.	Ensured that businesses were not subject to a punitive 18% interest rate for payments made later than 30 days, plus potential attorneys' fees and costs.

While OMA members value the association's advocacy work, they also benefit from the OMA's programs, products, events, and services.

- **TIMELY AND RELEVANT INFORMATION:** The weekly OMA Leadership Briefing is a roundup of the most relevant developments that could affect your business. OMA Daily News Clips provide a snapshot of news that matters.
- **MANAGEMENT COMMUNITIES TAILORED TO YOUR INTERESTS:** The OMA's management communities allow manufacturers to stay informed and collaborate on the issues that matter most to them, including energy, environment, government affairs, human resources, safety and workers' compensation, tax and finance, and workforce.
- **PROTECTION FOR ENERGY-INTENSE MANUFACTURERS:** A buy-up opportunity for energy-intensive manufacturers, the OMA Energy Group gives members a significant voice in critical PUCO cases and energy legislation.
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO GROW OHIO'S MANUFACTURING TALENT:** The OMA and its partners are modernizing workforce development. From establishing a statewide system of industry-led sector partnerships, to advocating for improved training and funding, to promoting "earn-and-learn" models, the OMA is leading Ohio's efforts to grow its manufacturing talent. Visit MakingOhio.com, Ohio's manufacturing career website powered by the OMA.
- **LEARNING EVENTS TO PROVIDE TIMELY INSIGHTS:** Your team will have access to the OMA's popular webinars and learning events, which share best practices, safety consulting, industry trends, and other insights for manufacturing leaders – all presented by subject-matter experts.
- **OMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION SERVICES FOR MANUFACTURERS:** The OMA is the only workers' compensation third-party administrator that exclusively serves Ohio manufacturers. Our comprehensive system provides members with a dedicated account manager, personalized workers' compensation dashboard, and no-fee representation at Industrial Commission hearings.
- **SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTISE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS:** Through the OMA's Connections Partner Program, we have sourced top subject-matter experts who understand the issues affecting manufacturers. Information is presented in meetings, webinars, and via OMA communication services.
- **ACCESS TO SPECIAL EVENTS:** Register for special OMA events, including workforce and energy conferences. Emailed invitations and an online schedule of events keep members updated.

BE PART OF OHIO'S MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY.

The OMA is Ohio's only statewide association that solely represents manufacturers. It's what we have been doing since 1910. Join forces with nearly 1,500 other manufacturers to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

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