

Federal Priorities for the 116th Congress

Defense – NTC supports a strong federal investment in the North Texas defense community that promotes and advances warfighter efforts, military installations, and supports defense community suppliers and manufacturers.

- National Defense Authorization Act
- Department of Defense appropriations
- Comprehensive warfighter support – deployment to employment of Veterans

Economic Development and Workforce – NTC supports the federal government’s efforts to strengthen and protect consumers’ data and supports programs that better prepare individuals to enter the workforce and contribute to our economy.

- Promote and protect a nationwide consumer data privacy framework
- Support reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) to simplify and protect the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and encourage quality innovations in higher education, including competency-based education
- Support short-term or workforce Pell Grants
- Encourage policymaker efforts to help student loan borrowers pay down debt, and to consider legislation to expand tax benefits for both employers offering student loan repayment benefits and employees making payments toward their loan debt to incentivize student loan repayment

Energy – NTC supports reasonable federal energy policy to promote smart energy sources for North Texas.

- Support natural gas as a safe, reliable, and clean energy source that needs to be considered in the ongoing discussions of future energy needs
- Oppose any rules or legislation that would preempt market determination by advancing one energy source over another to protect consumer choice

Fiscal Controls - NTC believes that getting control of our growing federal debt should be a priority in Congress.

- Monitor Budget Control Act
- Monitor debt ceiling – suspended through spring 2019

Healthcare – NTC supports a fair legislative and regulatory environment to enhance the quality and cost effectiveness of health care for North Texas.

- Monitor oversight of Affordable Care Act (ACA) and cost of prescription drugs
- Reduce ACA premiums and add funding for exchange market stabilization

- Support enhancement of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and expanded access to Association Health Plans (AHPs)
- Support surprise billing reform that protects consumers (by removing them from payment negotiations between insurers and providers)
- Support removal of employment and country immigration caps (defense/health/IT sector)
- Prevent cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Funding

Immigration – NTC supports sensible immigration reform to strengthen our region’s competitiveness and enhance the vibrancy of our local workforce and economy.

- Importance of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to North Texas business
- The need for additional H-1B Visas, STEM Visas, and the EB-5 Program
- Healthcare management
- Support the Transit Without Visa (TWOV) program

Infrastructure Investment - NTC supports a significant investment in our region’s roadways, bridges, and multi-modal transportation system.

- Any infrastructure package should focus on a multi-modal transportation system
- Protect and continue to support regulatory efforts for high-speed rail
- Consider additional infrastructure revenue sources in general, including gas tax, vehicle miles traveled, or other revenue sources
- Public Private Partnerships (P3s) as funding mechanism to repair and/or expand capacity
- Preserve road/bridge conditions by preventing increased truck size and weight limits
- Promote smart infrastructure to achieve efficiencies in operations and maintenance
- Support reforming the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations to improve environmental permitting and reduce delays that are hampering the construction of infrastructure projects
- Support the establishment of a new multi-billion dollar road – rail grade separation program, to solve vehicle and train traffic congestion at grade crossings, in North Texas and across the nation
- Airports must continue to comply with the FAA mandate to use PFAS-based firefighting foam until the agency changes its directive. DFW maintains the need for the federal government to be responsible for appropriate remediation and clean-up when the use of PFAS was mandated by the US government

Trade –NTC supports free and fair trade that enhances business competitiveness while promoting stability in trade policies.

- Monitor the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) rule making process and identify opportunities to submit feedback to federal agencies during public comment
- Trade stability
 - Resolution of Section 232 steel/aluminum tariffs
 - Avoid Section 232 tariffs on automobiles and auto parts
- Truck-air program – DFW Airport is a beneficiary of Mexico manufacturing trucks
- Support trade policies and agreements that expand market opportunities for U.S. companies
- Protection of U.S. intellectual property

Water – NTC supports continued investment in major water infrastructure projects for the region.

- Support continued funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorized projects
- Support funding of EPA Capitalization Grants for water and wastewater revolving loan funds

Holli Davies

NTC Vice President, Advocacy

817-713-9688 (mobile)

hollidavies@ntc-dfw.org

Chris Lamond

Thorn Run Partners

202-641-0044 (mobile)

clamond@thornrun.com

The North Texas Commission is a regional consortium of businesses, cities, counties, chambers, economic development entities and higher education institutions. The Commission has a rich history of addressing the region's toughest challenges by convening stakeholders, educating, and advocating in support of priorities that advance the vibrancy of North Texas.

Federal Priorities revised per the NTC's Board of Directors (2.20.20)