

The U.S. aluminum industry is an essential element of the nation’s manufacturing base, generating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, driving innovation and increasing energy efficiency in transportation, packaging, building and construction and other markets. With record demand, ongoing capital investment and job growth, now is the time for policymakers to act to support the U.S. aluminum industry in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

The aluminum industry identified five areas essential for future growth and investment in the United States: Trade, Environment, Energy, Workforce and Infrastructure.

### TRADE

The U.S. aluminum industry benefits from robust, fair and rules-based trade of aluminum and aluminum products. We support trade negotiations that reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports, set enforceable rules, expand bilateral commercial relations and provide for mutually beneficial trading relationships.

Policy Objectives:

- A government-to-government **negotiated agreement with China** that results in measurable and verifiable reductions in Chinese aluminum capacity in upstream and downstream segments of the value chain and eliminates market-distorting governmental support for commercially unviable producers.
- Appropriate **trade remedies** that create a level playing field, including trade enforcement cases for product categories with demonstrated unfairly traded imports.
- Trade agreements, policies and initiatives to **open markets and facilitate trade** for producers and customers that create demand growth for aluminum products.
- Elimination of trade barriers for countries that operate fairly under **global trade rules** as market economies.

### ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability is at the core of the aluminum industry. Aluminum producers recognize that regulations should balance promoting economic growth and protecting our environment. The aluminum industry supports the life cycle assessment approach to research that tracks the impact of a product in all stages of its life – from raw material extraction, to production, use and disposal or recycling. Measures to protect environmental quality should address an identified need; be based on facts, credible science and least cost means of implementation; and take a risk management approach with due regard for total impacts on employment, energy used, resources, and other social and economic concerns.

Policy Objectives:

- Fuel economy standards that recognize the benefits of vehicle light-weighting as a safe and affordable option for automakers seeking to develop the next generation of fuel-efficient, high-performance cars and trucks. To boost miles-per-gallon (MPG), extend electric vehicle (EV) coverage and cut carbon emissions, heavier vehicles – from midsize on up to full-size trucks – can and should take a multi-material approach to reduce weight safely.
- Reforms to the New Source Review (NSR) air emissions permitting program to **increase transparency and reduce barriers** to expanding operations or initiating new facilities.
- Implementation of revisions to the aluminum water quality criteria, as carried out under the Clean Water Act, that reflect the current knowledge of how aluminum behaves in water and is measured to best correlate with toxicity.
- Chemical reporting requirements that reduce complexity and ensure that reporting occurs at the point of raw materials import. The regulation of toxic substances should **protect health and the environment** while avoiding unnecessary adverse economic impacts
- **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** based on sound science, and compliance standards that comply with the Clean Air Act mandate to be requisite (neither too stringent nor too lenient) to protect human health.
- Carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) management approaches that **recognize and account for the challenges faced by Energy Intensive Trade Exposed Industries (EITEs)** such as aluminum, as well as life cycle analysis.
- Public and private investments that **advance research, development and deployment of new technologies** that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## ENERGY

Because the production of primary aluminum is inherently energy intensive, the availability and reliability of U.S. energy sources is essential to the industry's international competitiveness. The aluminum industry has made substantial gains in energy efficiency as part of the manufacturing process, and the federal government can help create a positive, reliable and unbiased climate for capital investment in new and existing plants, buildings and equipment. Aluminum producers are committed to energy efficiency as a way to lower costs and lessen environmental impact. Producing recycled aluminum requires only about 7 percent of the energy needed to produce new, or primary, aluminum. The growth of secondary aluminum production is therefore a win-win for both industry and consumers.

Policy Objectives:

- Facilitate industrial access to **diverse, affordable and reliable energy** and raw materials.
- **Market-oriented, transparent and modernized regulations** on energy transmission and ratemaking that reflect the needs of energy-intensive industries and other electricity consumers.
- Promoting **consumer and industrial recycling**, including policies and programs to increase participation in curbside and municipal recycling programs and to reduce the landfilling of recyclable products.
- **Public and private investments** that advance research, development and installation of new technologies that improve energy efficiency.

## WORKFORCE

Like many other facets of the manufacturing sector, the aluminum industry has a strong demand for trained workers requiring traditional as well as advanced manufacturing skills. Skilled labor remains in high demand and short supply, with routine turnover adding to these challenges. Additionally, the aluminum industry is committed to ensuring safety and health in industrial workplaces across the nation.

Policy Objectives:

- Grow and promote **work-based learning opportunities** – including apprenticeship, upskilling, credentialing and other types of training programs - that help manufacturers recruit and retain the highly skilled, diverse workforce they need to thrive.
- New occupational safety and health standards and regulations should be adopted through the current statutory and regulatory framework that **rely on sound scientific, data-driven research and stakeholder input**. Prior to new rulemaking, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) should review whether existing standards and regulations address emerging safety and health issues.
- **Apply and interpret in a uniform manner** across the country the occupational safety and health standards and regulations that are subject to government administration and enforcement.
- Support incentives for employees to undertake **education and training programs**.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

A significant federal investment to modernize our nation's infrastructure would create jobs, boost economic growth and save lives. Aluminum will be a critical building material in this new infrastructure. As manufacturers who rely on efficient transportation and a reliable infrastructure, aluminum industry members support increased public and private infrastructure funding that invests in seaports and airports, inland waterways, highways, transit systems, and the information and telecommunications system. Improving the performance of buildings, infrastructure and other public sites – particularly utilizing the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards and "green building" status – supports high-tech manufacturing, increases operational efficiencies, reduces carbon emissions and improves livability.

Policy Objectives:

- Federal policy to provide the opportunity for individual states to **raise truck weight limits** in situations where deemed prudent by the states. Additionally, a federally applicable truck weight limit increase should be considered.
- Increased, long-term federal funding for improvements to the nation's transportation, water, aviation and other critical infrastructure. Infrastructure policy should **recognize the benefits of aluminum as lightweight, durable, corrosion resistant and infinitely recyclable**.
- Regulatory reforms that significantly **shorten the permitting and approval process** for infrastructure projects.
- Market, regulatory and institutional **reforms and incentives to utilize advanced technology and energy management practices** to boost energy efficiency in buildings. We support standards for existing commercial, industrial and residential buildings that encourage new investment in these buildings.