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## 2017 Legislative Priorities

January 2017 brings us the beginning of a new legislative session in Albany, and an opportunity to voice our issues or concern within the manufacturing sector. While admittedly we spend a vast amount of our time working on bills and issues that we are not proposing, the early session and budget allows the opportunity to come up with and introduce policy ideas and areas we proactively would like support in or to see change on during the budget and remaining legislative session.

Below is a brief outline of the legislative priorities for the Statewide manufacturing sector, within the final 2017-2018 New York State budget and legislative session:

### **Implementation of a new Manufacturing Investment Program for Existing New York State Businesses**

Create a new investment program that incentivizes existing manufacturers to continue to increase manufacturing production, retain and grow jobs, as well as to make capital and equipment investments.

### **Manufacturing Small Business Tax Reform**

Adopt business tax reductions for small manufacturing businesses organized as pass thru entities including Sub-S corporations, LLCs and partnerships; increase the business income tax exemption under the personal income tax from five to 10 percent for businesses with a tax liability under \$500,000. Decrease the corporate franchise tax rate from 6.5% to 2.5% for small business with a tax liability less than or equal to \$500,000.

### **Age Restrictions Lifted for Students on Shop Floors While in Accredited Programs**

One of our biggest concerns amongst manufacturers is the age restrictions implemented for students on shop floors. While manufacturers are encouraged to assist in early engagement and career awareness, this restriction stifles their ability to provide hands on education and awareness to the future workforce. We need a solution to this problem, by lifting the age restrictions in certain cases to allow students to engage and interact on shop floors under constant supervision.

### **Year Two and Geographic Expansion of Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program**

The Manufacturers Alliance urges your continued support in implementing the New York State Manufacturers Intermediary Apprenticeship Program in Central New York, adding three additional new regions, and expanding throughout the state over five years at a cost of \$7 million. Our apprenticeship programs are four year programs. Year two funding is requested at \$1,250,000.

### **18a Phase Out of Remaining Assessments for Manufacturers**

The Public Service Law § 18-a(6) Temporary State Energy and Utility Service Conservation Assessment (Temporary Assessment), in effect a gross receipts tax on electric, gas, steam and water sales by public utilities, will be reduced for all utility customers to 1.63% for 2014, 1.00 for 2015, and .73% for 2016. The Executive Budget last year had proposed to reduce this assessment to 0% effective 1/1/14 for utility customers averaging with a monthly peak demand of 1000 kw or greater. We propose a similar proposal.