

Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut Inc.

2020 Government Affairs Agenda

Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut Inc. (SMA) is a manufacturing trade association that has a commitment to help Connecticut manufacturing thrive and grow through communication, education, collaboration and advocacy. The SMA is currently comprised of just under 200 member companies and more than 6,000 employees.

Connecticut and its Manufacturing community continue to face numerous challenges in our state, our nation and around the globe. Connecticut manufacturers are adapting to these changing times and our manufacturers are competing in markets around the world. In order for our manufacturers to continue to stay not only viable but to grow, as a state we must support that growth by:

1. Technical Education programs that will boost manufacturing jobs and wages

- Address the need for maintenance and repair technicians by preserving funds to institute more sites who can offer Mechatronics programing
- Grow Connecticut's skilled labor workforce by continuing funding apprenticeships and adjust ratios to better suit Manufacturing industry
- Resolve teacher shortages by lowering barriers for qualified technical professionals to become vocational teachers with fair compensation.

2. Sharpen Connecticut's technical edge with grants and loan programs which encourage recapitalization and process development

- Improve energy and cost efficiency with grants supporting LEAN improvement for manufacturers.
- Continue the success of the Manufacturing Innovation Fund with additional funding for successful programs.
- Continue to speed workers' entry into manufacturing with DOL's Step Up program.

3. Build a Better Connecticut Business Environment

- Review and "clean up" the sexual harassment training requirements and implementation procedures
- Implement consistent policies at DEEP, this includes permitting and communication
- Consider an appeal of taxation for Safety Apparel for manufacturing employees
- Restore confidence in Connecticut with restructuring of pension and insurance benefits for State employees.
- Restore trust in the business community with a transparent budgeting process that requires adequate opportunity for public comment.

4. Government Partnership

- Support the Connecticut Manufacturers Collaborative
- Support the Legislatures Manufacturing Caucus
- Support CONNSTEP and Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) with expansion of support beyond aerospace.