



AISI Public Policy Priorities – Promoting a Pro-Manufacturing Agenda

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has developed a detailed [public policy report](#) to protect manufacturing and construction industry jobs. Following is the introduction to the report.

Steel and other manufacturing industries are the backbone of our economy. A strong manufacturing sector creates significant benefits for society, including good-paying jobs, investment in research and development, critical materials for our national defense, and high-value exports. Yet manufacturing in North America faces significant challenges to its international competitiveness due to a host of factors, including burdensome tax rates, energy costs, inadequate investment in infrastructure, increasing regulatory burdens and foreign unfair trade practices. Since 2000, 5.6 million U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost because of the lack of aggressive policies to promote manufacturing here in America. A concerted pro-manufacturing policy agenda is needed to reverse this troubling trend.

The impact public policies have on manufacturers must be carefully considered to ensure both economic growth and our national security. The United States cannot continue to lose its manufacturing base due to market distorting foreign competition or government policies that discourage domestic investment in productive capacity. Should this happen, millions of additional jobs would be lost and our economic strength as a nation would be further damaged. In addition, the U.S. military and our civilian national security agencies would lose their principal source of strategic materials and our nation would become dangerously dependent upon foreign sources of supply.

To meet these critical goals, the North American steel industry strongly supports the implementation of a national pro-manufacturing agenda to ensure U.S. manufacturers are able to compete in today's global economy.