



NEWS RELEASE

CACI Launches Federal Policy Initiative and Manufacturing Initiative to Support Colorado Businesses

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Denver (December 12) – The Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry’s (CACI) Board of Directors Thursday approved two major initiatives to support Colorado businesses by building on its long-standing affiliations with:

- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce,
- The National Association of Manufacturing (NAM), and
- BIPAC, a national organization driving more effective business participation in the political process at the grassroots level.

- (1) CACI’s [Federal Policy Initiative](#) will focus on Federal legislation, rules and regulations that affect Colorado businesses.
- (2) The [CACI Manufacturing Initiative](#) will support and encourage manufacturing as a critical industry for Colorado’s economic health.

CACI President Chuck Berry said, “Over the course of the past year, CACI members have increasingly expressed a strong interest in having CACI advance their interests at the Federal level in a significant way while continuing to maintain its leadership role in advocating for businesses at the Colorado State Capitol. Also during this time, we’ve seen the growing importance of the kinds of jobs and economic impact that Colorado manufacturing means to our state’s long-term prosperity.”

“While Colorado’s economy is doing better than many other states,” Berry, the former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, said, “We see strategic opportunities to support our business climate and we’re taking them on. It’s important to note that these areas of focus will yield economic benefits for the entire CACI membership, broader business community and Colorado economy.”

Federal Policy Initiative: As the widely-acknowledged *Voice of Colorado Business*, CACI will work with Colorado's Congressional delegation and their staff and federal regulatory agency officials to inform and educate them on the importance of policies laws and regulations that are critical to maintain a healthy business climate in Colorado.

CACI is the Colorado affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, whose President and CEO, Thomas J. Donohue, has embraced CACI's Federal Policy Initiative

"The U.S. Chamber relies on the collaborative relationship with CACI, and believes Colorado is a pivotal state for achieving prosperity," Donohue said, "The Colorado Congressional delegation brings critical votes in Washington--we need those votes to create jobs and support free enterprise."

Al Timothy, Vice President of Community Affairs for MillerCoors and past CACI Board Chair, said, "Colorado business leaders have increasing concerns about Washington policies and the impact of those policies on their businesses here in Colorado. Look around – you'll see companies headquartered in Colorado are that are particularly impacted by federal policy."

"The CACI Board believes our Colorado delegation must hear directly from us," Timothy said, "to understand how Washington decisions impact companies at home here in Colorado, and we're putting resources into making that happen."

Loren Furman, CACI Vice President of Governmental Relations, has been promoted to CACI Senior Vice President for State and Federal Relations. Furman will direct CACI's Federal Policy Initiative.

Manufacturing Initiative: The Manufacturing Initiative will build on CACI's long-time partnership as the Colorado affiliate of NAM. Said Jay Timmons, NAM President and CEO, "In my meetings with CACI members and manufacturing leaders in Colorado, I have observed firsthand the importance and growth of innovative manufacturing in the state."

"The Colorado Manufacturing Initiative will enhance the NAM's already productive partnership with CACI, and it will benefit manufacturing in Colorado and the U.S.," Timmons said.

CACI members include Colorado's most prominent manufacturing companies: The Ball Corporation, MillerCoors, Golden Aluminum, Lockheed Martin, Anheuser-Busch, CoorsTek, Evraz Rocky Mountain Steel and many more.

Ann Brown, President of Golden-based New Vista Image and CACI Board Chair, said, "While the Manufacturing Initiative is good for Colorado manufacturing, let's recognize that manufacturing is good for the entire statewide business community and all of Colorado. When manufacturing companies succeed, so do their suppliers, banks, and professional firms, and those in hospitality and transportation. This is a vital \$17 billion sector for Colorado with jobs paying an average of over \$60,000."

“CACI’s decision to dedicate further resources to both the Federal Policy and Manufacturing Initiatives is the right decision for CACI, its members and for Colorado,” Brown said.

Dave Tabor, CACI Vice President of Membership and Marketing, has been promoted to CACI Senior Vice President, Business Partnerships. Tabor will direct the CACI Manufacturing Initiative.

Finally, the third partner of CACI’s two new initiatives involves BIPAC: Several years ago, BIPAC and CACI teamed up to create the Colorado Prosperity Project to aid the communication between employers and their workers about candidates, issues and elections in a non-partisan, pro-business way. This initiative was designed to present information that assists the Colorado’s business community. Whether a worker is casting a vote, or increasing his or her involvement in the legislative or electoral process, the Prosperity Project is here to make Colorado a better place to live and a better place for business to prosper.

ABOUT CACI

CACI was created in the mid-1960s when Colorado’s business leaders merged the Colorado Chamber of Commerce with the Colorado Manufacturing Association. CACI’s mission is to champion a healthy business environment. To achieve this mission, CACI has key four objectives: (1) maintain and improve the cost of doing business; (2) advocate a pro-business state government; (3) increase the quantity of educated, skilled workers; and (4) strengthen Colorado’s critical infrastructure (roads, water, telecommunications and energy).

Of CACI’s almost 500 members, there are about 40 local chambers of commerce, about 30 trade associations and several local economic development organizations. CACI’s members employ about 200,000 workers.