



PEDA FY2018-19 Advocacy Priorities

The Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) actively maintains a strong collaboration and connectivity between state and local organizations charged with developing and executing Pennsylvania's economic development strategy.

PEDA membership includes representatives of all economic development service delivery partners in the state. The organization advocates for economic development policies that enhance Pennsylvania's domestic and international competitive position. Our members are engaged in business attraction and retention efforts, site location assistance, international business development, new business development, business financing, infrastructure development, and workforce development. Our members deliver local, state, and federal resources and programs that are essential to our business community.

While many current economic development programs would have substantially more positive impact with additional financial support, we recognize that a state budget that strikes an appropriate balance between fiscal responsibility and strategic economic growth is challenging. With this challenge in mind, we present the following priorities to enhance Pennsylvania's economic development delivery system and make the Commonwealth competitive in the global economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Becker".

James Becker
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katrina Vincent".

Katrina Vincent
Advocacy Committee Chair

PEDA FY2018-19 Advocacy Priorities

1. IMPROVE THE REGULATORY CLIMATE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Permitting timelines and regulations associated with PA DEP, PennDOT and other state permitting agencies related to the land development process can result in increased project time frames and substantial costs – delaying or deterring economic growth and job creation.

PEDA supports improved coordination and a streamlined permitting process along with an expedited and collaborative inter-agency review, especially as it relates to high priority economic development projects. PEDA also supports the appropriation of \$2.5M for additional DEP staffing and guaranteed fast-tracked environmental permitting of all development plans for shovel-ready sites that have been prepared - at least partially - with the assistance of state funds.

2. MODERNIZE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING & INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Many of the Commonwealth's legacy economic development programs were created in the mid-to-late 20th Century and were focused on supporting Pennsylvania's manufacturing economy. Our economy has evolved and, where appropriate, legislative and regulatory changes should be made to modernize key programs, making them more effective.

PEDA supports a thorough performance review of key economic development programs and effective legislative and/or regulatory changes aimed at modernization.

3. ENHANCE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC & PRIVATE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Shovel ready sites with appropriate infrastructure are critical to PA's competitiveness. The Governor has proposed \$18M to the Infrastructure and Facilities Improvement Program (IFIP) to provide multi-year financial assistance to service debt on major infrastructure projects.

PEDA supports funding for public and private infrastructure development through the appropriation of \$18M to the IFIP.

4. INCREASE FUNDING FOR DISCRETIONARY JOB CREATION PROGRAMS & PRIORITIZE JOB RETENTION

As neighboring states continue to create and fund incentive programs aimed at encouraging business investment, Pennsylvania needs more discretionary funding for job retention and creation efforts in order to compete. Further, existing and new financing programs should be structured to support job retention where employers are considering ceasing operations or leaving the state, altogether. Key programs should be available to help retain valuable jobs, just as there are incentives to create them.

PEDA supports greater funding for discretionary economic development programs that are used by Industrial Development Corporations (IDCs) and their partners to create and retain jobs in Pennsylvania, the enhancement of incentives aimed at job retention and the repurposing of some existing incentives for job retention efforts.

5. SUPPORT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) network is the regional economic development delivery system in Pennsylvania. The Governor has proposed an appropriation of \$9.88M to the PREP line item, of which \$7.38M would be committed to the PREP program for distribution between Industrial Development Corporations (IDCs), Local Development Districts (LDDs) and Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), with the remaining \$2.5M being committed to Engage!, a statewide business retention and expansion program focused on complementing and supporting the PREP network.

PEDA supports the appropriation of \$9.88M to the PREP line item. All state-funded partners required to utilize the ExecutivePulse platform should share, proportionately, in the costs.