



### **FY2019-20 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 FY2019-20 Advocacy Priorities

### **1. 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.*

### **2. SUPPORT PUBLIC & PRIVATE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

Shovel ready sites with appropriate infrastructure are critical to Pennsylvania's competitiveness. The Governor has proposed an appropriation of \$16M 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, including through the appropriation of \$16M to the IFIP.*

### **3. IMPROVE THE REGULATORY CLIMATE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Permitting timelines and regulations associated with Pennsylvania 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.*

### **4. PROVIDE FOR INNOVATIVE TRAINING INITIATIVES**

Workforce development programs that address the growing skills gap identified by Pennsylvania companies are essential to economic development. PEDA supports proven successful programs such as Industry Partnerships (\$4.813M proposed), Apprenticeship Training (\$7M proposed) and WEDnetPA in addition to those focused on incumbent worker training, veteran entrepreneurship and technical education that addresses skills gaps identified by Pennsylvania businesses.

*PEDA supports training initiatives that address the growing skills gap and develop innovative plans to integrate workforce development, economic development and job opportunities.*

### **5. ENHANCE PENNSYLVANIA FIRST FUNDING**

Pennsylvania First (PA First) is a comprehensive program that offers grants for job creation and retention, infrastructure projects and workforce development by providing the Commonwealth the flexibility necessary to rapidly respond to companies' needs, increasing investment in the state and enabling Pennsylvania to compete more effectively with other states.

*PEDA supports the appropriation of \$32M to the Pennsylvania First line item.*

Adopted by PEDA Advocacy Committee - April 5, 2019

Adopted by PEDA Executive Committee - April 8, 2019

Adopted by PEDA Board of Directors - April 29, 2019