

January 23, 2024

Dear Members of the Arizona Legislature,

We are reaching out to you on behalf of the undersigned organizations and businesses committed to advancing policies that stimulate economic growth and prosperity for all Arizonans. Collectively, our organizations and businesses represent hundreds of thousands of hardworking Arizonans across multiple industry sectors. We write to you today in support of the continuation of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) and the critical programs it oversees that have made our state the best place to work and own a business.

### **Background**

During the recovery from the great recession, leaders from around Arizona came together to creatively revamp the state's economic approach. This new model – the Arizona Commerce Authority – was designed to diversify Arizona's economy and attract, expand, and create new businesses and job opportunities. This approach had never been tried before and is now the leading example of economic development success across the nation. Arizona's growth since 2011 has been astounding, with record-level investments creating thousands of new high wage jobs for our residents.

### **Impact on economy and jobs**

Since its inception, the ACA has contributed to Arizona's economic success through the attraction of new projects and expansion of existing Arizona companies. Some significant wins include:

- 1,209 projects won,
- 272,803 projected new jobs,
- \$60,808 average wage, and
- \$115.694 billion in projected total capital investment.

The impact of this success on our economy has been profound. It's estimated that ACA projects will produce \$11.3 billion in tax revenue and \$442.3 billion in economic output. The direct, indirect, and induced projected jobs total is 886,933. These new jobs are shifting our economy and Arizona is now more well positioned than ever. With the help of the ACA, Arizona has dramatically reshaped the outlook of our economy. For example, since 2011, Arizona's workforce has grown by 28%, the 5<sup>th</sup>-fastest growth rate in the nation.

Additionally, we have seen rapid growth in employment in varying industries. Prior to the creation of ACA, the main economic driver within Arizona's economy was construction. Now, Arizona has more manufacturing jobs than construction and our economic outlook for the future has never been better because of the diversification the ACA helped to create. Furthermore, JLBC shows Arizona's General Fund revenue increased by more than \$5 billion from 2011 to 2023, from \$8.3B to almost \$13.5B, as Arizona has added new jobs, businesses, and workers.

The ACA also plays a central role in workforce development, partnering with industry, universities, community colleges, and more to meet the increased workforce demand and develop a skilled talent pipeline that is ready to support the anticipated growth in our state.

## **Industry growth & diversification**

In addition to attracting business and advancing our global competitiveness, ACA offers a host of programs that have been crafted by policymakers to support businesses of all sizes in all corners of Arizona. They specifically have focused on supporting the growth and success of rural and small businesses.

The manufacturing industry has exploded under the leadership of the ACA, which has helped secure historic investments throughout the state. Arizona has become a sustainability ecosystem with the manufacturing of microchips, electric vehicles, batteries, and more. The growth in manufacturing has helped onshore the supply chain stimulating our economy, creating jobs, and protecting national security by reducing our reliance on international supply chains. Innovation is at the core of ACA's mission, and they continue to team up with startups and entrepreneurs to spur investment in Arizona.

## **Preparing for the future**

The Arizona Commerce Authority continues to be critical to economic development in our state, and it's imperative that it is continued. ACA has exceeded its original mission and has become a model for job attraction that is being mirrored nationwide. We strongly urge the state Legislature to support ACA's continuation.

We are grateful for the continued leadership of our legislators who have worked to ensure Arizona remains competitive on the global level and pursue policies that make Arizona the best state to start and grow a business.

Sincerely,

Aluminum Dynamics, Inc., a subsidiary of Steel Dynamics, Inc.  
Amazon  
American Battery Factory, Inc.  
American Chemistry Council  
American Medical Response  
Amkor Technology  
Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce  
Applied Materials, Inc.  
Arizona Association for Economic Development  
Arizona Association of Realtors  
Arizona Bankers Association  
Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. (AZBio)  
Arizona Builders Alliance  
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Arizona Chapter of NAIOP  
Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.  
Arizona Complete Health  
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association  
Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association  
Arizona Manufacturer's Council  
Arizona Mining Association  
Arizona Multihousing Association

Arizona Public Service  
Arizona Rock Products Association  
Arizona Small Business Association  
Arizona State University  
Arizona Technology Council & SciTech Institute  
Arizona Transportation Builders Association  
Arizona Trucking Association  
ASM  
Avnet, Inc.  
AZ Energy Consultants  
Banner Health  
Becton, Dickinson & Company  
Benchmark  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona  
Bombardier, Inc.  
Buckeye Chamber of Commerce  
CalPortland Company  
Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce  
Caterpillar Inc.  
Chandler Chamber of Commerce  
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
Coolidge Chamber of Commerce  
Cox Communications  
Dexcom  
East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance  
Ecobat  
Ecolab  
EdgeCore Digital Infrastructure  
Eloy Chamber of Commerce  
EMD Electronics  
EnPro Industries, Inc.  
Fortescue  
Freeport-McMoRan  
Garrett Motors Chevrolet Buick GMC  
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce  
Glendal Chamber of Commerce  
Google Inc.  
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Phoenix Chamber  
Greater Phoenix Leadership  
Health System Alliance of Arizona  
Honeywell  
Intel  
LCY Chemical Corp.  
Lee & Associates Arizona  
LG Energy Solution Arizona Inc.

Lucid Motors  
Lumen Technologies  
Marana Aerospace Solutions, Inc d/b/a Ascent Aviation Services  
Maricopa County Community College District  
Mayo Clinic in Arizona  
Mercury Systems  
Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
Microsoft Corporation  
Nikola Corporation  
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce  
Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Paypal  
Peoria Chamber of Commerce  
Phoenix Children's  
Pivot Manufacturing  
Public Square Public Affairs  
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce  
Raytheon Technologies Corporation  
Republic National Distributing Company  
Republic Services  
RMB III Consultancy, LLC  
SA Recycling\*\*  
Salt River Project  
Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce  
Shamrock Foods Company  
Skin Perfected Aesthetics  
Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.  
Southern Arizona Leadership Council  
Southwest Gas Corporation  
Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Spread the Love LLC  
Sunland Visitor Center  
Swire Coca-Cola  
Tempe Chamber of Commerce  
The Boeing Company  
The Ruby Marketing Agency  
TSMC AZ Corporation  
Tucson Electric Power/UniSource Energy Services  
Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce  
TYR Tactical  
Universal Technical Institute  
Valadez and Associates  
Valley Partnership  
Valleywise Health  
Verizon  
Viavi Solutions  
Waymo  
Wells Fargo

West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance  
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce  
XNRGY Climate Systems