ONE LOUISVILLE

ADVOCACY

FEDERAL
PRIORITIES & POSITIONS
2026–27

onelouisville.org

CONTENTS

2026–27 FEDERAL PRIORITIES & POSITIONS

Policy Priorities & Positions

This document establishes One Louisville's policy positions on the federal issues that most influence regional competitiveness. It serves as the framework for our advocacy throughout the year, while the Board and Business Advocacy Council identify a smaller number of strategic priorities where concentrated advocacy can have the greatest impact on investment, job creation, workforce growth, and competitiveness.

01 GROW BUSINESS INVESTMENT

TAX REFORM

Congress should reaffirm the tax cuts established in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) which reformed the U.S. tax code to allow American businesses to compete in today's global economy and enact additional reforms. To facilitate economic growth in Louisville, One Louisville supports the removal of limitations on the business interest expense deduction by permitting taxpayers to elect certain depreciation limitations instead, as already available for real estate developers. Limits on this type of deduction particularly harm capital intensive industries, which are already facing increases in interest rates and are currently unable to offset those business expenses.

Congress must also be cognizant of and refrain from further increasing the growing national debt which continues to threaten our nation's future economic stability. Federal spending to support businesses in recent years through unprecedented times has proven essential. However, as our country continues to bounce back, and must lower inflation levels, Congress must address the serious fiscal challenges we face and reduce the current level of unsustainable spending.

BANKING REGULATIONS

One Louisville urges Congress and federal regulators to promote a balanced regulatory framework that protects financial stability while ensuring businesses have access to affordable capital and lending. Regulatory policies should appropriately account for institutional risk, business model, and regional economic conditions rather than relying solely on asset size thresholds. One Louisville supports policies that improve access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs, provide regulatory clarity for community and regional financial institutions, and encourage financial modernization and innovation while protecting consumers and markets. Access to capital remains critical to investment, entrepreneurship, business expansion, and regional economic competitiveness.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

One Louisville supports trade agreements that promote open, free, and fair trade with other countries and opposes the imposition of tariffs or any approach to international trade that could bring harm to Louisville businesses, limit access to global markets, disrupt supply chains, and exacerbate the soaring inflation our economy is experiencing. One Louisville applauds the temporary suspension of the European Union's and United Kingdom's retaliatory tariffs on bourbon, Kentucky's signature industry, and supports making those changes permanent. To ensure fairness in free trade, One Louisville supports efforts by federal policymakers to deter currency manipulation.

Current tariffs on U.S. finished goods and intermediary products are at record levels. These barriers are distorting markets and costing American businesses and households. Tariff relief is sorely needed to lower costs and tamp down inflation.

One Louisville also believes that American whiskey should have the ability to utilize export programs that other beverage alcohol products enjoy. Fair participation in export programs would allow Kentucky bourbon to expand its reach around the globe and result in investments in the Louisville region. This would not only strengthen this signature industry for our commonwealth but also promote Kentucky tourism to the world.

The global economy is interconnected between continents and the United States' role in that connection cannot be understated. One Louisville strongly opposes tariffs against our allies and against industries that keep our economy growing. These tariffs hurt businesses' bottom lines as parts and resources become more expensive to acquire and that cost hits consumers hardest. The Louisville region is a hub for advanced manufacturing and much of our economy relies on the ability to send our products across the world. These tariffs hurt our region and will stifle our economy if they are not managed well. We encourage a thoughtful approach to any economic sanctions and dissuade any knee jerk reactions that may impact businesses' ability to plan in the long term.

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS

To spur investment and create jobs in low-income, underdeveloped areas in Louisville, One Louisville supports making permanent and expanding the New Markets Tax Credit and finding ways to incentivize and encourage businesses within Opportunity Zones to expand and invest additional capital in those areas. One Louisville also supports federal efforts to encourage pro-development zoning and land-use policies at the state and local levels.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

One Louisville encourages full federal funding for Small Business Development Centers, which support entrepreneurs and small businesses with technical assistance, capacity building, access to emergency loans, and numerous other key services.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Protection for intellectual property has improved in recent years however continued enforcement is needed, both at home and abroad, to ensure that American businesses can foster a spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation. One Louisville supports reforms to prevent abuses, make patent litigation more efficient and provide alternatives to litigation, and ensure the protection of customers from bad actors. One Louisville also encourages a clear national framework for the use of intellectual property in artificial intelligence models that support innovation and creativity without theft of ideas.

DATA SECURITY, PRIVACY, AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Congressional action is needed to establish a federal data security and privacy protection framework that includes guidelines, education, and funding. This will protect consumers and businesses by providing certainty and consistency of data security from hackers and ransomware.

One Louisville recognizes that consumers deserve to have their privacy protected and businesses need certainty to provide the best products and services for the market. To avoid a patchwork of state regulations, One Louisville supports a unified national data privacy framework to protect consumer data, promote transparency, and provide regulatory certainty in the marketplace while ensuring that businesses can provide the best products and services that their customers have come to expect.

FUNDING FOR BROWNFIELDS REMEDIATION

In addition to being an important economic development tool for job creation and leveraging of investment dollars, Brownfield remediation and redevelopment programs are critical for reducing the prevalence of blight and hazardous properties in the Louisville region. The redevelopment of Brownfield sites has been shown to eliminate environmental hazards, reduce crime, increase affordable housing and mixed-use developments, and increase social and economic accessibility for marginalized populations. We support funding and access to Brownfields Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and other programs that encourage, facilitate, and/or incentivize community developers, investors, non-profits, and state and local governments to rehabilitate these properties.

REGULATORY REFORMS

One Louisville strongly encourages continued endeavors that mutually sustain protection of the nation's environment while working to simplify necessary federal environmental requirements. One Louisville encourages expeditious review, revision, or elimination of unnecessary and/or burdensome federal regulations to reduce bureaucratic delays and costs. Further, newly enacted regulations should be narrowly tailored to reduce regulatory burdens on the business community while ensuring environmental protection goals are met. It is imperative that these regulations foster, and not impede, economic growth in the United States.

EPA's regulatory reform efforts under the "Great American Comeback" initiative appropriately seek to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on the power sector while preserving environmental protection and grid reliability. Streamlining permitting requirements, improving consistency in rule implementation, reconsidering overly burdensome compliance obligations, and promoting practical, technology-neutral regulatory approaches can help power plants continue providing reliable and affordable electricity to American homes and businesses.

Reduce Permitting Burdens: One Louisville supports EPA's permitting reform initiatives which appropriately recognize that efficient, transparent, and predictable permitting processes are essential to both environmental protection and economic development. By modernizing permit review procedures, improving interagency coordination, reducing duplicative information requests, and encouraging the use of electronic permitting tools, EPA can maintain rigorous environmental standards while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on regulated entities.

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR): As the country transitions to sources of energy with lower emissions impacts and to renewables, the legacy of coal combustion that provided reliable, low-cost power remains at former power plant sites. These materials are commonly used as a component of concrete and drywall used to build homes, offices, and roads. However, the supply of these materials will become scarce as the energy transition away from coal continues. Policies need to be refined to ensure that CCR supplies can be accessed from existing and future sources so that CCR products can continue to be catalysts to fuel further economic growth.

Greenhouse Gas Regulation: As greenhouse gas emission policy is discussed, One Louisville encourages all policymakers to continue to keep energy costs low and ensure reliability and resource adequacy for current and future economic development.

Effluent Limitation Guidelines: EPA's Effluent Limitation Guidelines Best Available Technology (BAT) for electric generating units needs to be reevaluated. The technical and economic evaluation of BAT is not based on proven systems and new compliance requirements result in obsoleting technology recently commissioned for 2025 compliance requirements.

Waters of the U.S.: One Louisville supports a definition of "waters of the U.S." that respects states' rights, achieves a reasonable balance of ensuring environmental protection while not stifling economic development, provides regulatory certainty, and is consistent with Supreme Court decisions. One Louisville encourages the U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to provide clarity to the regulated community with regards to projects that may involve jurisdictional determinations.

Risk Management Plans (RMP): EPA's proposal to repeal or substantially revise portions of the Risk Management Program rule is a reasonable and appropriate effort to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens while maintaining strong protections for worker safety and accidental release prevention. A more balanced and practical RMP framework can continue to support public safety and environmental protection while avoiding unnecessary regulatory complexity and economic burden on critical industrial operations.

INCREASE DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

With soaring energy prices due to inflation and international conflict, the need for American energy independence has never been more apparent. One Louisville encourages the federal government to facilitate greater capital investment in projects necessary for longer-term production growth and revise policies that discourage permitting for pipelines and other energy-related projects. Encouraging a national energy policy that promotes diversified capacity (nuclear, coal, and natural gas) that results in responsible domestic energy production while also investing in clean and renewable energies will enable the United States to be truly energy independent and ensure our economy's resilience in the face of uncertainty in the global energy market.

02 BUILDING OUR WORKFORCE

LEGAL IMMIGRATION

One Louisville supports legal immigration because while the economy continues to grow and workforce participation remains historically low, our current immigration systems fall short in helping the business community and restricts employers in the process. In today's exceptionally tight labor market, decreased legal immigration has contributed to stifling our economy. Comprehensive reform is needed to expand legal immigration, focusing on sensibly reforming our nation's asylum laws and instituting efficient employment verification forms. Furthermore, relief for businesses needs to include a significant increase in the annual quotas for employment-based immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, an expansion in the scope of essential worker programs, and the creation of new visa options for international students, entrepreneurs, and other high-demand workers.

One Louisville also believes that preserving DACA and protecting Dreamers from the threat of detainment and deportation allows the estimated eleven million people affected to stably engage in the workforce.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

One Louisville supports program funding focused on integrating work-based learning and competency-based education, such as apprenticeships, and prioritization of credentialing outcomes. Continued funding for programs and grants like those offered through the Department of Labor to increase traditional trade and new technology apprenticeships should be provided.

THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

One Louisville encourages Congress to allocate additional funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support the important work of business-led Workforce Boards like KentuckianaWorks and favors allowing increased flexibility in how these funds are used at the state and local levels.

CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Child Care is critical economic infrastructure for the Greater Louisville region. Access to affordable, high quality child care leads to higher labor-force participation and strong economy. Children with access to pre-kindergarten programming — through a mixed-delivery model incorporating public preschool, Early Head Start/Head Start, and private child care — demonstrated higher levels of academic readiness in literacy, language, and math. Increasing resources for quality improvements across the early childhood ecosystem should remain a priority to ensure an educated future workforce, including investments in Head Start.

One Louisville applauds the inclusion of $16 billion in HR1 for new child care spending which strengthened the Employer-Provided Tax Credit (45F), increased the pre-income exclusion for the Dependent Care Assistance Program, and allows families to claim up to half of their child care costs under the Child Care and Dependent Tax Credit.

Congress should build on that progress by modernizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), last re-authorized in 2014. Improvements should include strengthening provider reimbursements, expanding supply and quality, and increasing flexibility for state administrators.

STEM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

STEM education and workforce programs are vital to filling open positions in Louisville's regional business clusters and are key to cultivating innovation, entrepreneurship, and a competitive tech sector. Federal support through grants and other funding streams can help our region develop the programs needed to cultivate a competitive, forward-looking workforce.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

One Louisville supports higher education funding tied to institutional performance, funding for research and development grants to colleges and universities, and funding that promotes access for more students, regardless of socioeconomic background, to attain a high-quality post-secondary education. This includes increasing the max Pell Grant awards and lifting the ban on students who have been incarcerated receiving Pell Grants to enable more people to enter the workforce.

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Healthcare providers face a widespread shortage of qualified healthcare professionals. One Louisville encourages federal investment in existing and new federal initiatives to help identify and build pipelines for recruitment, education, and training of healthcare professionals at all levels.

The long-term care industry has faced acute challenges in recent years with the labor market shortage forcing many nursing homes to limit admissions. This has led to a ripple-effect on the entire healthcare system. One Louisville encourages the Administration to focus on investment in recruitment and retention programs that will bolster healthcare workforce, such as apprenticeship programs for assistant and support staff positions and expanding loan repayment and other incentive-based programs.

Specifically, physicians and other critical healthcare professionals should be exempt from the proposed $100,000 H-1B visa application fee. These workers are essential to maintaining access to healthcare, particularly in communities facing workforce shortages, and imposing such significant costs on their employers could further strain the healthcare system and limit patient access to care.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM & SECOND CHANCE HIRING

In today's tight labor market, criminal justice reform and second-chance hiring are vital components to workforce development efforts in regions like Louisville. While Congress has taken action to refocus the criminal justice system on rehabilitation, reintegration, and training, further action is needed. Congress should prioritize reauthorization of the Second Chance Act and continue support for employers that engage second chance hires through programs like the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Federal Bonding Program. Congress should also pass S.1580, the Clean Slate Act of 2025, and The Fresh Start Act, which would provide grant funding for states to automate their own expungement processes, to address the collateral consequences that justice-involved individuals face as a result of their conviction history.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

Supported employment initiatives can help alleviate workforce shortages and facilitate workforce participation among marginalized communities. One Louisville supports continued funding for vocational rehabilitation agencies and state supported employment services and encourages programs and policies aimed at assisting employers with employing individuals with substance use disorders, criminal backgrounds, or other barriers to workforce participation.

DISPLACED WORKERS

To help displaced workers reenter the labor force, One Louisville advocates for increased federal resources for reskilling and retraining initiatives. One Louisville supports the JOBS Act (S. 383) to expand Pell Grant eligibility for short-term credentialing programs, the A Stronger Workforce for America Act (H.R. 8210) to modernize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the Upward Mobility Act (H.R. 6949/S. 3538) to reduce benefits cliffs and create clearer pathways to economic mobility.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Education (USDoE) provides critical funding for career and technical education, apprenticeship programs, and access to higher education — all of which help prepare job-ready talent for the regional and national economy. In the Louisville region, this funding means critical investments in underserved populations including funding for Title I schools, special education (IDEA), and Pell Grants ensuring that all students have access to educational attainment. Congress should prioritize continuity and stability when funding educational initiatives and schools.

03 LOWER THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

FAIR LABOR REGULATIONS

Federal labor regulations should include sufficient flexibility to account for different business types and outline clear expectations from employers. One Louisville supports allowing employers to offer employees compensatory time off as an alternative to monetary compensation for overtime work.

JOINT EMPLOYER

To help Louisville businesses operate under reasonable, commonsense rules, the federal definition of joint employer should appropriately limit the standard of joint employer and support franchisor-franchisee relationships. One Louisville supports passage of the bipartisan, bicameral American Franchise Act, which would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to clarify that a franchisor may be considered a joint employer of a franchisee's employees only when it exercises substantial, direct, and immediate control over essential terms and conditions of employment.

NONCOMPETE AGREEMENTS

Non-competes have long served as standard business practice across sectors to foster innovation. One Louisville strongly opposes any regulations that would impose nationwide bans on non-compete agreements.

INFLATION

Inflation rates continue to impact businesses across the Commonwealth. Inflation is impacted by a number of key issues including the predictability of the market, the cost of doing business, consumer demand, supply chain disruptions, as well as federal monetary policy and spending. As shifts in national economic policy continue to be enacted, these factors remain variable and all the work of bringing inflation down may be in jeopardy.

We encourage the Administration and the Federal Reserve to maintain monetary policy aimed at reducing inflation in the long-term. Furthermore, we urge the Federal Trade Commission to maintain transparency and respect the due process of their regulatory authority to maintain certainty for businesses during this time of historic challenges. Policymakers should consider additional measures including easing regulations, reducing tariffs, and increasing domestic energy production to combat the historic inflation affecting the buying power of individual households and businesses.

Additionally, One Louisville urges the Administration to address key issues affecting inflation, including encouraging greater workforce participation and legal immigration.

DEVELOP OUR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE

We encourage the federal government to pursue programs that will address the nation's truck-driver shortage and support the development of transportation workforce and the transport of goods and services in bi-state regions like Louisville. With the increase in assaults on transit workers in recent years, it is imperative that this key segment of the workforce have robust safety protections, similar to protections for airlines, which ensure safe rides for both frontline workers and riders.

AVIATION

One Louisville encourages lawmakers to maintain federal appropriations for the Airport Improvement Program at the 2025 funding level of $4.0 billion per year. One Louisville also supports proposals to relax restrictions on flight sharing or expense flight sharing to promote the use and growth of general aviation airports within our region.

RAILROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

One Louisville supports increased federal funding for maintaining and improving the safety of railroad infrastructure. Dedicated resources for short line tracks and regional railroads are needed for the sustainability and improvement of multi-modal freight transportation in Louisville.

INLAND WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Inland Waterways play a key role in international and domestic trade. Full federal funding to support critical water infrastructure improvements is necessary to promote inland waterway commerce. One Louisville is proud to support the bipartisan effort by Congressman McGarvey as he seeks to establish the Ohio River Restoration Program.

The Ohio River is the largest body of water in the U.S. that does not receive any funding from the federal government for its maintenance. The Ohio River Basin is home to 10% of the United States population, covers 204,000 square miles encompassing parts of 15 states, has 7,000 miles of waterfront along the Ohio River, and provides drinking water to several million people, including thousands of Kentucky residents. Its protection and care are crucial to our way of life and economy.

WATER, WASTEWATER, STORMWATER, AND FLOOD PROTECTION

As evidenced by major flood events in 2025, Louisville's flood protection system is in great need of reinvestment and support. The system protects over $34 billion in property value and many of these facilities have outlived their functional life. One Louisville encourages federal support through forgivable funds through direct appropriations, FEMA grant programs, continued State Revolving Fund appropriations, funding for lead service line removal, Congressional Community Project Funding (Earmarks), and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. The Federal Low Income Household Water/Wastewater Affordability Program (LIHWAP) has been especially positive for the Louisville region and One Louisville encourages the continued funding of programs like it.

One Louisville is deeply concerned by the dissolution of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant funding in 2025. This program was critical for the investment planned in the Louisville region to help revitalize our aging water infrastructure. Honoring those promised funds is important to establish continuity and resiliency.

04 ACCELERATING INNOVATION

BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain technology promises to disrupt the online economy in a manner which improves the lives of consumers and opens the door to new forms of digital commerce. One Louisville supports policies which provide regulatory clarity for entrepreneurs and developers who are seeking to unlock the innovation promised by this new technology.

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One Louisville urges the allocation of additional funding for research and innovation connected with technology transfer mechanisms to enhance the global competitiveness of the Louisville region's industries, colleges, and universities. Our region relies on technology-based innovation, such as new materials for advanced manufacturing, development of new drugs and therapies, new ways to automate manufacturing, and advances in artificial intelligence for economic competitiveness.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Congress should adopt a set of flexible but clear universal standards to accelerate the safe development, production, and deployment of autonomous vehicles, including for commercial purposes. In addition, federal policymakers and members of Congress should work with the Army and Department of Defense to establish Fort Knox and the Louisville region as a national hub for testing, researching, and advancing autonomous vehicle technologies. Given Louisville's strategic role in logistics and manufacturing, this initiative would not only enhance national security capabilities but also position Louisville at the forefront of emerging technology innovation.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Kentucky and the Louisville region are proud to be home to a substantial portion of the American electric vehicle (EV) production, an industry that is growing at a rapid pace. To support the increase in EVs, a visible, robust, and reliable fast-charging network across our nation's highway system must be implemented to encourage continued growth and consumer confidence. One Louisville encourages the federal government to continue investing in grant programs that support both EV charging infrastructure and investments in advanced battery manufacturing and recycling.

DATA CENTERS

With the rapid advancement of data centers, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies, the demand for next-generation infrastructure and resilient power systems is accelerating. The Louisville region is well positioned to support these types of projects and investments with strong access to water, a reliable energy foundation, and proximity to major markets. One Louisville encourages continued investment in modernizing the power grid and advancing critical infrastructure to support data center and industrial development, enhance the region's competitiveness, and enable long-term economic growth.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Louisville is proud to be home to hubs of health care innovation from pediatric oncology to end of life care. NIH and its counterparts across the health research sector have funded discoveries that transformed the healthcare industry. So much of the Louisville economy, from hospitals to universities, focuses on the healthcare sector. NIH funding is used for innovation in our universities and hospitals that wouldn't be possible without grants to support their efforts. We encourage continued funding for this critical sector.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Protection for intellectual property has improved in recent years however continued enforcement is needed, both at home and abroad, to ensure that American businesses can foster a spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation. One Louisville supports reforms to prevent abuses, make patent litigation more efficient and provide alternatives to litigation, and ensure the protection of customers from bad actors. One Louisville also encourages a clear national framework for the use of intellectual property in artificial intelligence models that support innovation and creativity without theft of ideas.

05 CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH

HOUSING

One Louisville was thrilled to see the passage of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, a bipartisan bill that includes incentives for building supplies, streamlines regulatory barriers, and supplements home repairs. Louisville's housing stock is aging and as we look to address housing shortages across the spectrum, maintaining existing stock is critical. One Louisville urges lawmakers to support more legislation like this to help communities across the country house their residents.

FUNDING FOR THE ARTS

Louisville's arts scene is an economic necessity, competing with the top cities in the world and driving economic growth. One Louisville supports federal funding for arts programs, arts education, and performing arts venues to help our region continue to attract and retain top talent, revitalize our downtown, boost tourism, and sustain a positive quality of life for our citizens.

PUBLIC HEALTH

One Louisville strongly supports the continued dedication of federal resources to protecting public health, including funding for continued streamlining of the development of scalable vaccines, therapeutics, and treatment strategies for diseases. We also encourage the federal government to support initiatives that increase access to safe and affordable housing for all communities including continued federal funding for lead and radon mitigation. The federal government must also allocate resources to rebuild and protect the health care infrastructure of the United States by supporting hospitals, health systems, and physician practices that are critical to protecting the health of the public. Public health departments need access to flexible funding sources to ensure the continuity of their work, including addressing health disparities within the communities they serve.

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

One Louisville supports proposals to allocate increased resources for mental health treatment and research and encourages the implementation of programs that provide treatment alternatives to incarceration. One Louisville also encourages continual and regularly scheduled appropriations of resources to fund comprehensive treatment and recovery programs for substance use disorders.

TELEHEALTH

One Louisville is supportive of the use of telehealth as a tool for providing access to health care services in accordance with applicable state and federal guidance and regulations. Regulatory requirements have been relaxed in recent years, allowing patients to receive necessary healthcare, including behavioral health, in a virtual environment. We urge Congress to make permanent patients' continued access to health care in a telehealth environment provided that protections to ensure patients' personal safety and health information are in place and that services provided are appropriate for delivery through virtual means.

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Louisville relies upon tens of millions of dollars in federal funding in support of the Transit Authority of River City (TARC). These funds support infrastructure improvements that include vehicles, roadway improvements, and technology that provide more efficient transit service for residents. Even with these needed funds, Kentucky public transit is underfunded, which hurts the further development of key economic and workforce hubs like Louisville.

The federal government must continue supporting public transit by fully appropriating allocated Bipartisan Infrastructure Law amounts in upcoming fiscal years, supporting "plus-ups" for transit specific funding sources and reducing local match requirements for key transit programs. As the time nears for the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, Congress must also identify new and expanded sources of funding to deal with critical maintenance backlogs and growing challenges.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AND INVESTMENT

Congressional action to rebuild infrastructure is vital to the economic future of Louisville and restarting our economy. In order for communities to capitalize on the available funds from the historic 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, policymakers need to take additional steps to bolster these investments including permitting reform, workforce development, broadband spending, coordination and planning, and regulatory relief.

A modern, connected transportation network is essential to supporting regional economic growth, tourism, and quality of life. One Louisville supports the study of a potential tunnel connection proposed by Kentucky Venues to evaluate its feasibility, economic impact, and long-term transportation benefits between the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center and the Kentucky International Convention Center.

The federal government is at an inflection point, resulting in the creation and termination of funding agreements for agencies across the country. One Louisville encourages executive agencies to honor all grants that have been awarded regardless of the presence of signed grant agreements. Organizations across the country have developed implementation plans and laid the groundwork for community-altering infrastructure investments and should be allowed to see them come to fruition.

PASSENGER RAIL

With funding available from 2021's Infrastructure and Jobs Act, partners in Louisville have received first-steps funding to expand passenger rail service. One Louisville encourages the federal government to continue grant funding through the Federal Railroad Administration for next steps as our community seeks to expand connectivity with other major cities, benefiting tourism, talent attraction, and economic development.

APPROPRIATE TREATMENT STRATEGIES AND REGULATIONS FOR PFAS

One Louisville encourages EPA to develop a better understanding of the public health and environmental risks posed by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and the transport pathways by which these chemicals move within the environment. Ensuring that EPA's response to PFAS is fully grounded in scientific analysis will help ensure regulations are appropriate to protect human health and the environment and to improve the treatment strategies available to public utilities.

One Louisville encourages Congress to support the codification of the April 19, 2024 EPA Memo on PFAS enforcement discretion, which would result in an explicit statutory exemption from PFAS liability under CERCLA for water utilities, municipal landfills, and municipal emergency services acting in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

One Louisville relies on hundreds of volunteers from the Louisville region business community to develop legislative priorities and set positions on key public policy issues that affect economic growth and workforce development. With the support of One Louisville's Board of Directors, One Louisville's Business Advocacy Council leads One Louisville's public policy efforts with the assistance of six policy task forces.

06 ONE LOUISVILLE ADVOCACY

One Louisville relies on hundreds of volunteers from the Louisville region business community to develop legislative priorities and set positions on key public policy issues that affect economic growth and workforce development. With the support of One Louisville's Board of Directors, One Louisville's Business Advocacy Council leads public policy efforts with the assistance of six policy task forces.

Business Advocacy Council	Chair: Les Fugate	Brown-Forman
Regional Business Competitiveness	Chair: Jim Dahlem	Dahlem Company
Education and Workforce Development	Chair: Adam Haley	Goodwill
Energy and Environment	Chair: Jennifer Cave	Stites & Harbison
Health Care	Chair: Lourdes Baez	Baptist Health
Transportation and Infrastructure	Chair: David Beck	Kentucky Venues
Regional Land Development	Chair: Lee Weyland	Weyland Ventures

For more information on One Louisville's federal advocacy work, visit onelouisville.org or contact our policy team at (502) 625-0000.