



One Woodward Avenue • Suite 1900 • Detroit, Michigan • 48226

2019 Policy Priorities

Industry Talent Pipeline

MICHauto is focused on the development of a strong talent pipeline for the automotive industry, including training deployments for the existing workforce and branding and awareness of the industry as a career opportunity for prospective talent. MICHauto encourages the Legislature to prioritize increasing education and training system career pathways and counseling funding/programs; cultivating digital economy talent; and supporting efforts to engage existing talent as well as attract new talent.

Member companies have realized tremendous value in statewide initiatives such as the **Going PRO Talent Fund**. Such programs should continue to be part of the state's strategic effort toward narrowing the skills gap and ensuring that job providers can compete in the global economy and deserve increased support to meet employer demand.

MICHauto also encourages the implementation of Gov. Whitmer's proposal for a new **Michigan Reconnect** program, an economic growth and workforce development program that would provide a tuition-free pathway to an in-demand industry certificate or associate degree for Michigan adults, 25 years old and above.

The Future of the Industry: Connected, Automated, Shared, and Electric

Michigan has long been known as the automotive capital of the world. In order to continue our past successes and see long-lasting growth in the future, we must position the state for the emerging sectors of the automotive industry. **MICHauto seeks to ensure that Michigan remain at the forefront for companies and research institutions** with a business climate and entrepreneurial environment to lead in new technology development.

Michigan's business and political leaders must capitalize on opportunities to create public-private partnerships that encourage innovation and investment, cultivate a tax climate that rewards research and development in growth markets, and invest in the necessary infrastructure to support the adoption of these emerging technologies.

International Trade

Fair trade continues to be a pivotal issue as Michigan companies sell their products on the international stage.

MICHauto encourages productive efforts to promote fair trade through the pursuit of high-standard trade agreements and address markets where foreign governments have erected barriers against U.S. goods and services. Such efforts, however, must caution against unnecessarily bold actions that could increase prospects of a trade war, which could threaten our economic momentum, provoke retaliation from trade partners, and alienate our strongest global allies.

MICHauto encourages our federal officials to finalize and implement the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This important agreement continues the past success of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which has provided consumers across the United States, Canada, and Mexico with access to more abundant and affordable products and services. Value chains have become integrated as many products cross the border multiple times prior to a finished product. The industry will also benefit from new aspects in the USMCA, which improved rules of origin for automotive products and strengthened protections for U.S. intellectual property.