

United States Chamber of Commerce

Health and Safety The Chamber seeks to improve workplace wellness in the United States business community by:

- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber hosts annual forums to highlight trends in workplace and community wellness initiatives³²);
- commissioning and publishing research (e.g. in 2016, the Chamber released a study on the impact of wellness on workforce productivity in global markets³³); and
- sharing information and best practice³⁴.

Environment The Chamber seeks to improve the environmental performance of the United States business community by:

- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber recently hosted a workshop on recycling optimisation³⁵);
- developing industry guidance (e.g. the Chamber, in collaboration with the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, developed a toolkit to improve energy and water efficiency³⁶);
- administering recognition programs (such as its environmental stewardship awards); and
- sharing information and best practice³⁷.

The Chamber frequently engages on environmental issues such as the regulatory approach of the United States Environmental Protection Agency³⁸, the Clean Air Act and the Ozone Standards Implementation Act³⁹, and the Clean Water Rule⁴⁰.

32 United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Innovations in Workplace and Community Wellness: A new era', available at: [uschamber.com/event/innovations-workplace-and-community-wellness-new-era](https://www.uschamber.com/event/innovations-workplace-and-community-wellness-new-era).

33 United States Chamber of Commerce (2016), Health and Economy: The Impact of Wellness on Workforce Productivity in Global Markets, available at: [uschamber.com/sites/default/files/documents/files/global_initiative_on_health_and_the_economy_-_report.pdf](https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/documents/files/global_initiative_on_health_and_the_economy_-_report.pdf).

34 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (n.d.), 'Workplace wellness', available at: [uschamber.com/issues/health-care/workplace-wellness](https://www.uschamber.com/issues/health-care/workplace-wellness).

35 United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Orlando region recycling optimisation workshop', available at: [uschamberfoundation.org/event/orlando-region-recycling-optimization-workshop](https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/orlando-region-recycling-optimization-workshop).

36 United States Chamber of Commerce (2015), 'Energy-Water Nexus Toolkit: Resources and Best Practices for Using Energy and Water More Efficiently', 15 April, available at: [uschamberfoundation.org/reports/energy-water-nexus-toolkit-resources-and-best-practices-using-energy-and-water-more](https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/reports/energy-water-nexus-toolkit-resources-and-best-practices-using-energy-and-water-more).

37 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2017), 'Managing water-related risks: Moving from awareness to action', 27 March, available at: [uschamberfoundation.org/blog/post/managing-water-related-risks-moving-awareness-action](https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/blog/post/managing-water-related-risks-moving-awareness-action).

38 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Comments to EPA on Evaluation of Existing Regulations', available at: [uschamber.com/comment/comments-epa-evaluation-existing-regulations](https://www.uschamber.com/comment/comments-epa-evaluation-existing-regulations).

39 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards', available at: [uschamber.com/issue-brief/ozone-national-ambient-air-quality-standards](https://www.uschamber.com/issue-brief/ozone-national-ambient-air-quality-standards).

40 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Comments to EPA and USACE on Proposed Repeal of 2015 WOTUS Rule', available at: [uschamber.com/comment/comments-epa-and-usace-proposed-repeal-2015-wotus-rule](https://www.uschamber.com/comment/comments-epa-and-usace-proposed-repeal-2015-wotus-rule).

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Community

The Chamber seeks to improve how United States businesses engage with the communities in which they operate by:

- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber hosted a workshop on how the private sector could create economic development opportunities in the Twin Cities⁴¹);
- administering recognition programs (such as its Corporate Citizenship Award); and
- sharing information and best practice⁴².

The Chamber launched the Native American Enterprise Initiative (**NAEI**) in 2012 'to promote the interests and agenda of tribes and tribal entrepreneurs'⁴³. The NAEI engages on a number of legislative and judicial priorities (including, most recently, passage of the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act).

Workforce

The Chamber seeks to improve the inclusion and diversity performance of the United States business community by:

- developing industry guidance (e.g. the Chamber has developed guidance on how businesses can create and implement programs aimed at fostering inclusivity, empowerment and respect⁴⁴);
- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber hosted *America Working Forward* in October to 'showcase employer-led solutions to closing the skills gap'⁴⁵);
- commissioning and publishing research (e.g. the Chamber, in partnership with the United Nations and the Harvard Kennedy School, undertook research on the role of corporations in supporting women's economic empowerment⁴⁶); and
- sharing information and best practice⁴⁷.

The Chamber engages on workforce issues such as securing Congress action on undocumented migrants who arrived in the United States as children⁴⁸, improving the approach of the National Labor Relations Board,⁴⁹ and improving gender diversity outcomes⁵⁰.

41 United States Chamber of Commerce (2016), 'Private sector solutions to economic opportunity in the Twin Cities', available at: uschamberfoundation.org/event/private-sector-solutions-economic-opportunity-twin-cities.

42 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2017), 'Leading the Way: A guide for business engagement in early education', 17 October, available at: uschamberfoundation.org/reports/leading-way-guide-business-engagement-early-education.

43 United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Native American Enterprise Initiative', available at: uschamber.com/native-american-enterprise-initiative.

44 United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Developing a kindness program', available at: uschamberfoundation.org/business-kindness/developing-kindness-program.

45 United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2017), 'American Working Forward', available at: uschamberfoundation.org/event/america-working-forward.

46 United States Chamber of Commerce (2015), 'A Path to Empowerment: The role of corporates in supporting women's economic progress', 22 April, available at: uschamberfoundation.org/reports/path-empowerment-role-corporations-supporting-women-s-economic-progress.

47 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2017), 'Bridging the Soft Skills Gap', available at: uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Bridging%20The%20Soft%20Skills%20Gap_White%20Paper%20FINAL_11.6.17%20.pdf.

48 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'From Dream Job to Possible Deportation, a DREAMer Confronts the Unknown', 16 November, available at: uschamber.com/above-the-fold/dream-job-possible-deportation-dreamer-confronts-the-unknown.

49 For example, see: Glenn Spencer (2017), 'Restoring common sense to labor law', Washington Examiner, 28 February, available at: washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-common-sense-to-labor-law/article/2615945.

50 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2016), 'Letter supporting "Gender Diversity in Corporate Leadership Act of 2016"', available at: uschamber.com/letter/letter-supporting-gender-diversity-corporate-leadership-act-2016.

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Economics

The Chamber frequently engages on economic issues such as reducing red tape⁵¹, managing the federal debt⁵², boosting trade and investment⁵³, and improving the growth impacts of America's corporate tax system⁵⁴.

The Chamber has strongly supported United States involvement in bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements, and sought to convey the benefits of international trade to its stakeholders⁵⁵.

The Chamber supports international economic engagement through its International Affairs Division. The Chamber is also steward of the American Chambers of Commerce Abroad (**AmChams**), which comprises more than 115 American Chambers of Commerce in 103 countries⁵⁶. The AmChams provide export-import trade leads, facilitate meetings between business leaders and governments, and share information and best practice.

Summary view

The Chamber is a high profile and longstanding industry association that plays a significant role in the United States business community. We have been a member of the Chamber since 2011. We derive benefits from the association's advocacy on economic issues, including free trade. We also derive some benefit from having access to issue experts at the Chamber, and the Chamber's information-sharing activities. However, while the Chamber is active across a number of areas of importance to BHP (particularly health and safety, environment, community and workforce), we rely less on the Chamber to improve our performance in these areas compared to other major industry associations.

We differ with the Chamber in some policy areas (as is to be expected given the breadth of the organisation), including in recent times in relation to the potential introduction of regulations requiring the publication by US extractives companies of their payments to governments. The Chamber opposed the introduction of the proposed Securities and Exchange Commission rule 1504⁵⁷. This rule was supported by BHP.

51 United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'Red tape issue brief', available at: [uschamber.com/sites/default/files/red_tape_issue_brief_.pdf](https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/red_tape_issue_brief_.pdf).

52 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'It's time to scrap the debt limit', 25 May, available at: [uschamber.com/above-the-fold/it-s-time-scrap-the-debt-limit](https://www.uschamber.com/above-the-fold/it-s-time-scrap-the-debt-limit).

53 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'The benefits of international trade', available at: [uschamber.com/international/international-policy/benefits-international-trade](https://www.uschamber.com/international/international-policy/benefits-international-trade).

54 For example, see: United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'US Chamber welcomes pro-growth Senate tax reform package', 10 November, available at: [uschamber.com/press-release/us-chamber-welcomes-pro-growth-senate-tax-reform-package](https://www.uschamber.com/press-release/us-chamber-welcomes-pro-growth-senate-tax-reform-package).

55 United States Chamber of Commerce (n.d.), 'The benefits of international trade', available at: [uschamber.com/international/international-policy/benefits-international-trade](https://www.uschamber.com/international/international-policy/benefits-international-trade).

56 United States Chamber of Commerce (2017), 'International Affairs Division', available at: [uschamber.com/international-affairs-division](https://www.uschamber.com/international-affairs-division).

57 United States Chamber of Commerce (n.d.), 'API, others sue SEC over Dodd-Frank payment disclosure rule', available at: globalenergyinstitute.org/api-others-sue-sec-over-dodd-frank-payment-disclosure-rule.