

Top Issues List 2019

DRMA conducts an annual survey to better understand the “hot button” issues affecting Manufacturer members. The following are the top issues for 2019.

1. **Shortage of skilled workers.** Technically skilled and productive workers are in very short supply in the Dayton Region. Many of our members responding to the survey identified this is a top issue, and this has been the Number 1 issue for the last six years. It is essential that a highly trained and skilled work force is available for manufacturing companies to be able to meet the demand for goods and services and to be able to offer high quality, high paying jobs that will assure a prosperous economy. DRMA members support initiatives that attract, retain, develop and train our workforce.
2. **Business sustainability.** DRMA members are concerned with increasing their sales revenue while maintaining current profit margins. Because of competitive pricing pressures and the increased costs of doing business, margin compression is a concern at all levels of the supply chain. This includes the effect of trade agreements, tariffs and fair/free trade policy. DRMA members want a level playing field in international trade with as little volatility as possible.
3. **Corporate tax rate and complicated tax code.** DRMA members support the concept that lower corporate tax rates encourage growth of industry and growth of employment. Therefore, DRMA members support reforms to the tax code to make it simpler and less burdensome.
4. **Cost of healthcare.** DRMA members believe the high cost of health care adds an unrecoverable cost to their business and contributes to the decision to limit hiring. DRMA members support efforts that will address reform of the Affordable Healthcare Act in order to make it less of a burden for businesses.
5. **Burden of regulation on business.** DRMA members support the need for reasonable levels of regulation to protect both citizens and businesses. Regulations should be kept to a minimum, be simple to administer and comply, minimize burdensome and complex reporting requirements, and should have a clear and critical need. A clearer definition of “small business” need to be addressed.
6. **Legalization of marijuana.** DRMA members are concerned with the legalization of medical and recreational marijuana because of workplace safety issues and the lack of impairment testing. Legalization will increase costs for small manufactures who need to rewrite policies and will further complicate and exacerbate the problems of finding skilled workers.
7. **Aging infrastructure.** DRMA members are concerned about the aging infrastructure in terms of highway, bridges, and technology. In order for businesses to compete on a worldwide basis, they need well maintained and efficient systems to move goods and data. Because orders are taken via information technology and delivered via the roads, both need to be well maintained and able to handle the required capacity.