



## **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY:** Creating Cleaner, Safer and More Inclusive Communities

Manufacturers are innovating and implementing the solutions the world needs to address climate change, protect biodiversity and advance environmental justice. Manufacturers have sharply reduced the industry’s impact on the environment through a wide range of innovations, such as saving and recycling water, increasing energy efficiency, implementing successful initiatives to reduce pollution and waste and taking action to protect vulnerable communities. The industry’s momentum is strong, and with new technologies being implemented every day, the future is unquestionably bright.

With the right federal policies and a sustainable balance between environmental ambition and commercial feasibility, manufacturers are proving we can have both a healthy, clean environment and a prosperous economy. However, when policymakers adopt poorly tailored laws and regulations that put manufacturers in America at a global disadvantage, the critical balance between environmental improvement and economic growth is lost, hurting our workers, businesses and communities. Furthermore, our antiquated permitting system is holding back economic progress across the board and preventing full implementation of historic funding, such as

the CHIPS and Science Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The NAM laid out a comprehensive roadmap for climate action in “The Promise Ahead,”<sup>2</sup> which included immediate actions for policymakers. Many of these immediate actions were included in the late 2020 energy bill, the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure and climate bill and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. Sustainable permitting improvements, electric grid modernization, climate adaptation and resiliency programs, zero-carbon nuclear power, clean hydrogen, drinking water improvements, efficient manufacturing and new energy innovation programs were all included with robust funding. We must implement these historic investments in a way that manufacturers can take full advantage of opportunities to build our domestic capabilities.

Manufacturing holds the key to solving this global challenge. Think about the technologies that will get us there: clean energy, carbon capture, hydrogen, microgrids, advanced vehicles and more. Manufacturers make these products and develop technologies that will allow us to continue inventing new innovative solutions. If we work together, we can make our vision of a brighter tomorrow a reality.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nam.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Promise-Ahead.pdf>

“ A sustainable future is attainable, but only if we continue to tackle this issue head-on, hold ourselves accountable and work together to enable new science- and technology-based solutions that deliver a low-carbon future.”

—Jim Fitterling, Chair and CEO, Dow Inc.

### **An Environment and Sustainability Agenda for the Future Must:**

- Recognize manufacturers as the solution to emerging environmental challenges and build on the strong steps manufacturers have already taken to drive sustainability and tackle climate change on a global scale.
- Apply sound science- and evidence-based approaches in all regulatory and legislative proposals.
- Appropriately balance the United States’ economic and environmental interests so that achieving one goal does not mean ignoring the other.

### **ACTIONS FOR LEADERS TO TAKE:**

- ✓ Expedite our antiquated permitting system to allow manufacturers to grow our economy and continue our global lead.
- ✓ Modernize environmental laws and regulations for 21st-century environmental challenges.
- ✓ Pursue bipartisan legislative solutions to climate change that reduce global emissions, promote innovation and new technologies and harmonize the patchwork of regulations and lawsuits.
- ✓ Coordinate public-private sustainability efforts to develop and implement new technologies and solutions across manufacturing supply chains.
- ✓ Improve the manner in which the federal government assesses environmental risks—through use of the best-available science, transparent and open stakeholder engagement and balanced communication to the public.
- ✓ Ensure thoughtful oversight of federal agencies and eliminate duplicative regulations or those for which risks are assessed improperly or costs outweigh benefits.
- ✓ Work directly with manufacturers before laws and regulations are written to understand the entire supply chain and life cycle impacts of policies to avoid unintended consequences.