



The Region's Leading Resource for Economic Development

## 2019/2020 LSCP POLICY AGENDA

### Mission

We will advocate for legislative policies and programs at the local, state, and federal levels that encourage a positive business climate and provide the foundation for business growth and investment. We will be an active, influential part of the process and will strategically build our network and sphere of influence around our economic development priorities.

### Guiding Principles

- Support a regulatory climate that will help the region attract quality business, industry and jobs to the area and to retain/expand existing business and industry while balancing environmental stewardship
- Support development and maintenance of infrastructure systems that encourage economic development
- Advocate for changes necessary in P-20 education to prepare all students for careers of the future and to provide a skilled workforce to support the region's employers.

## **Talent/Workforce**

### **Basic Philosophy**

The LSCP supports P-20 Education which is vital to our economic competitiveness and future workforce.

### **P-12 Education**

Support for equitable P-12 per pupil funding

Investment and access in early childhood programs in the region

### **Higher Ed**

Increased funding needed to prepare future workforce

### **Workforce Development**

Access to training in trade and technical fields

Provide opportunities for businesses to play a significant role in the development of our regional workforce

## **Infrastructure**

### **Basic Philosophy**

The LSCP strongly supports the need for reliable and secure infrastructure.

### **Environment**

Support business and environmental regulations that achieve economic growth while protecting our natural resources

### **Energy**

Advocate for affordable and reliable energy access

Support the preservation of generation capabilities in the region

### **Transportation**

Affordable and quality road, rail, port and air service to move people, products and services

### **Other**

Promote broadband and cell coverage for all Region 1 for critical global connections

## **Business Climate**

### **Basic Philosophy**

The LSCP believes that sustainable and diverse economic growth is essential to the long term success of the region.

### **Economic Vitality**

Support and advocate for policies that encourage quality job creation and retention/expansion of our businesses

Believe that tax policy has a big impact on competitiveness of business, and should require a reasonable but not disproportionate level of taxation.

Support the continuation/expansion of local, state, and federal economic development tools that encourage development, are flexible and meet the needs of both urban and rural settings

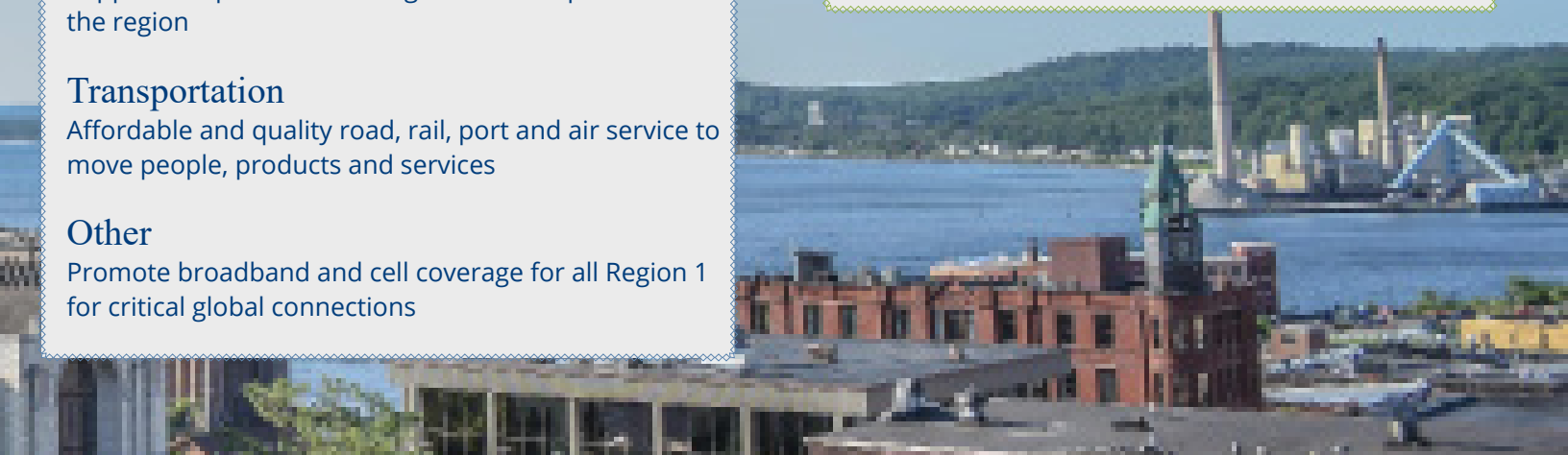
### **Healthcare**

Advocate for affordable and accessible healthcare options

### **Government**

Remove cumbersome reporting requirements and unfunded mandates

Support the efficient, timely and consistent permitting and regulatory processes





## Taking a Stand

The Lake Superior Community Partnership believes that taking stands on appropriate policy matters, and promoting those positions, are important ways in which we serve our constituents and our cause. We not only serve our communities, we advocate for our communities. We use our voice strategically and thoughtfully in accordance with the LSCP's mission.

While the Government Relations Task Force supports various public policies, actively pursues opportunities to meet with legislators and staff when they are in the area as well as opportunities to meet with political candidates, the LSCP DOES NOT endorse candidates for office.

## Government Relations Task Force & Marquette County Ambassadors Joint Committee

Tom Anthos  
President  
TriMedia Consultants

Amy Clickner  
CEO  
Lake Superior Community  
Partnership

Bryan DeAugustine  
Superintendent  
NICE Community Schools

Patricia E. Davis  
Attorney  
Kendricks, Bordeau, Keefe, Seavoy &  
Larsen, P.C.

Brett French  
External Relations Manager  
Upper Peninsula Power Company

Jim Grundstrom  
President  
Frei Chevrolet

Deanna Hemmila  
Director of External/Corporate Affairs  
Northern Michigan University

Don Gladwell

Scott Knaffla  
Financial Advisor

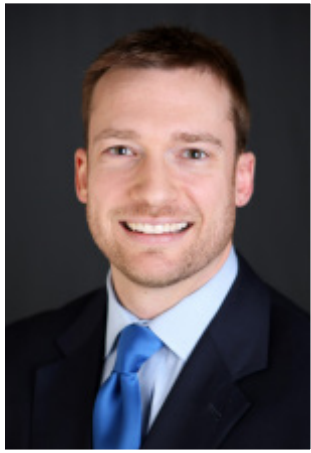
Barton, Knaffla & Associates

Doreen Takalo

Steven VandenAvond  
VP of Extended Learning and  
Community Engagement  
Northern Michigan University

Deb Veiht  
Superintendent  
MARESA

Kent Wood  
Gov. Rel  
Northern Michigan Chamber  
Alliance



## Kent Wood

Director of Government Relations [kentw@tcchamber.org](mailto:kentw@tcchamber.org) p. 231.995.7109

Kent is a Traverse City native who has been with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance since December 2013. In his role, he leads the business advocacy efforts the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance. He serves as the organization's chief lobbyist and contact with local, state and federal lawmakers, and directs and manages the various aspects of the strategic advocacy and policy development efforts.

Before arriving at the NMCA, Kent was the Policy Director and Legislative Affairs Manager for the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and served as legislative director for State Rep. Peter Pettalia of Presque Isle, and as the director of constituent services for State Rep. Wayne Schmidt of Traverse City. Kent also served as Schmidt's campaign manager for his successful state House bid in 2008.

Kent received his law degree from Michigan State University College of Law in 2013, and has a B.A. in French and Political Science from Albion College. He and his wife Glenna have three children: a daughter Mackenzie, and sons Graeme and Brady.



## Lobbying Firm

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### Commitment

Acuitas offers clear vision, strategic insights and solutions for our clients. Government impacts every aspect of life. The world changes rapidly making navigation difficult. Acuitas gives you an advantage with insight to steer a successful course through uncharted waters.

### Company History

Founded in 2007, Acuitas is Lansing's fastest growing multi-client government relations firm. While client growth has enhanced the firm's capabilities, Acuitas remains focused on the needs of each individual client. With offices steps from the State Capitol, Acuitas provides convenient work space and easy access to important meetings.

### Acuitas Today

With a wealth of experience, our team brings a fresh innovative strategy to government relations. Our bipartisan approach represents of our clients best interests, not that of a particular political party. We separate ourselves from other firms by thinking in a multidimensional paradigm delivering proven results for our clients. We do the little things that make a difference. Insightful judgment and persuasive arguments. Our unparalleled knowledge and expertise exceed our clients' expectations.

# Federal Level

## INFRASTRUCTURE:

Transportation – A critical component in economic development in the ability to safely, efficiently and cost effectively move product and people. With our nation’s infrastructure requiring significant investment, there needs to be an adequate and long term funding source identified at the federal level.

Soo Locks - The Homeland Security study, released in 2015, found that an “unanticipated closure” of the Poe Lock could cause more than 10 million people in the United States to lose their jobs and push North American economies into a severe recession. According to the Corps of Engineers, an average of 10,000 ships a year pass through the locks, carrying about 40 million tons of iron ore and coal, which is estimated to be about 90% of the world’s iron ore.

We urge our federal legislators to take appropriate action to expedite the US Army Corp of Engineers updated study and release approved funding for the project.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

We support the programs and agencies that aid small business, entrepreneurs and rural economic development organizations. This includes, but not limited to:

- Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Economic Development Agency (EDA)
- US Rural Development Agency (USRDA)
- Export-Import Bank (Ex Im)
- Manufacturing Extension partnership (MEP)
- SelectUSA
- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
- Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM)
- Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)
- State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA)
- Delta Regional Authority (DRA)
- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
- Denali Commission
- Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)

## REGULATORY:

Steel Imports – Steel and other US manufacturers continue to face significant trade challenges from foreign government trade distorting policies and practices. A more aggressive US trade policy is needed to combat these foreign trade distorting practices in order to preserve and strengthen our nation’s manufacturing base. The US government must use the strengthened trade laws recently passed by Congress and all other means to prevent and address injurious import surges.

# State Level

## INFRASTRUCTURE:

Support the outcomes of the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission that benefit northern Michigan such as increasing infrastructure and access to high speed broadband, fiber internet and cell cover-age.

Defend the current transportation funding formula (Public Act 51) that provides transportation revenue to local governments.

Advocate for the constitutionalizing of the General Fund dollars allocated for road upgrades.

Modify or create rural housing incentives to address the lack of affordable housing.

Support business and environmental regulations that achieve economic growth while protecting our natural resources.

Advocate for access to affordable, reliable and environmentally sound energy.

## TALENT/WORKFORCE:

Support for equitable P-12 per pupil funding.

Investment and access in early childhood programs in the region.

Investing in our region's higher education institutions, including community college programming.

- Support continuation and enhanced funding for skilled trades training

Provide opportunities for businesses to play a significant role in the development of our regional workforce.

## BUSINESS/CLIMATE:

Support and advocate for policies that encourage quality job creation and retention/expansion of our businesses.

Believe that tax policy has a big impact on competitiveness of business and should require reasonable but not disproportionate level.

- Support HB 4412 that addresses the dark store tax policy

Support the efficient, timely and consistent permitting and regulatory processes while avoiding overreach.

- Support removal of cumbersome reporting requirements and unfunded mandates.
- Address the impact of revenue sharing decreases

Encourage the continuation and expansion of local, state and federal economic development tools that encourage development, are flexible and meet the needs of both urban and rural settings.

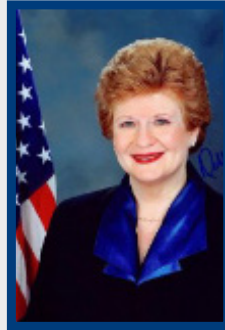
- Support SB 242 243 & 244 "Good Jobs for Michigan"
- Support SB 111-115 transformational TIF
- Support the continuation of Pure Michigan Funding
- Support the funding of the MEDC
- Support the one time funding transfer from Petroleum Funds to brownfield cleanup

Advocate for affordable and accessible healthcare including the protection of state and federal funding for rural hospitals.

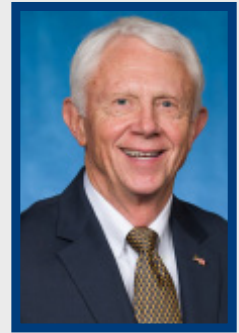
# Delegation



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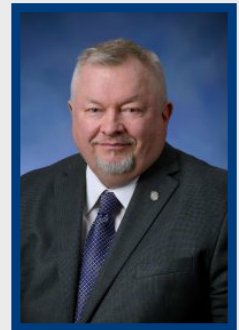
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