



Illinois Manufacturers' Association

For more than a century manufacturers have enthusiastically supported and respected the **Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA)** as their voice in the legislative and regulatory arena. The IMA represents over 4,000 member companies collectively employing hundreds of thousands of Illinois workers. In the City of Chicago alone, the IMA represents the interests of approximately 800 manufacturers, of which more than 600 have fewer than 100 employees.

The IMA is dedicated to saving manufacturers money by reducing government-imposed costs and regulations in areas such as corporate taxes, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, environment and energy. In addition, the IMA has been a strong voice in the drive for meaningful education and tort reform.

In addition to offering a full-range of services, programs and products to meet member-company needs, the IMA's major emphasis is to protect and promote manufacturing as an influential, economic force in Illinois. Manufacturing is the backbone of the nation's economy, and Illinois' role as a key player in the manufacturing sector has been well-documented. Relative to their service sector counterparts, it is a fact that manufacturing sector workers tend to earn higher wages and receive better employee benefits.

THLBC 005572

Recently, a proposal has been introduced for consideration before the Chicago City Council that, if passed into law, would saddle city-based employers with yet another government-imposed mandate. Currently, Chicago's Clean Indoor Air Ordinance requires employers in the City of Chicago to provide smoke-free areas for nonsmoking employees to the maximum extent possible. Similar provisions under the Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act seek the same result statewide for employers. On March 25 of this year, the federal government agency charged with addressing workplace safety — the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) — announced