



ALLIANCE ACTS AMID TARIFF UNCERTAINTY

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance has released results from a regional survey revealing deep concern among small- and medium-sized businesses over rising tariffs and trade instability.

Among the 214 businesses surveyed across various sectors, including retail, manufacturing, construction, and professional services, a majority reported negative impacts on their operations due to tariffs. Retail and manufacturing were hit hardest, with 16% and 14% of responses, respectively. Businesses cited widespread uncertainty, with many struggling to plan amid shifting trade policies and rising costs—even those sourcing domestically.

"Since October of last year, tariffs as a percentage of our cost of goods sold have doubled and could rise further. [We] do not have the means to rapidly vertically integrate and create our own domestic supply chains," said Bill Myers of Promethient, a Traverse City-based manufacturer. "Due to the extraordinary uncertainty associated with how tariffs are being deployed, investment in building new onshore production facilities will be impractical."

Key findings include:

- 52% expect a significant negative impact
- 44% foresee a major revenue decline in the next 12 months
- 14% anticipate job cuts, while only 1.4% expect growth

While views on tariffs were mixed, many raised concerns about rising costs, price volatility, and long-term economic risk.

The Alliance is urging federal and state lawmakers to prioritize economic stability for small businesses and share these findings with the administration

ALLIANCE JOINS CONVERSATION ON MEDICAID CUTS IN CADILLAC

The Alliance joined state officials and leaders at Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital to discuss the negative impacts of cuts to Medicaid funding on patient care and the financial health of rural hospitals and their local communities. State officials and health care leaders urged Congress to vote in the best interests of the people of Michigan by opposing these harmful reductions.

The decision-makers present included Director of Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Elizabeth Hertel, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Susan Corbin, President of Munson Healthcare, Ed Ness, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Megan Brown, Executive Vice President at Michigan Health & Hospital Association, Laura Appel, MI Hospital Assn, and Director of the Office of Rural Prosperity, Sara Lucas.



ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST IN CADILLAC

Alliance Partners gathered in Cadillac for the 47th Annual Governor's Breakfast with the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce to celebrate local accomplishments from the past year, highlight local students, and honor the work of regional member businesses. Approximately 1,000 people attended the event at the Wexford Civic Center, including hundreds of area high school seniors. Following the event, Alliance partners attended a legislative luncheon afterwards and took the Governor on a tour of local businesses.



CONGRATULATIONS, MARTY FITTANTE, ADVOCATE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD WINNER

Marty Fitante, the CEO of Invest UP and an Alliance Supporting Partner, received the inaugural Advocate for Economic Development Award from the Michigan Economic Developers Association. The Alliance applauds Marty's relentless impact on economic development in the Upper Peninsula and across the state.



MICHIGAN CHAMBER DAY AND NORTHERN CAUCUS RECEPTION HELD ON MAY 7

Alliance Partners joined member businesses and community leaders in Lansing for the 2025 Michigan Chamber Day at the Capitol. The day offered a full agenda of impactful dialogue on key policy issues, expert insights into Michigan's economic and political climate, and strong opportunities for connection and collaboration. A central theme throughout the day was advocacy for ice storm recovery efforts, which remained at the forefront of many conversations.

Alliance Partners upheld the tradition of hosting a reception for the Northern Caucus the evening prior, where they welcomed State Senators Michele Hoytenga, Ed McBroom, and John Damoose as well as State Representatives Ken Borton, Karl Bohnak, and John Roth.



NORTHERN LAKES ECONOMIC ALLIANCE HOSTS SUCCESSFUL SYMPOSIUM

NLEA hosted its fourth annual Economic Symposium at Boyne Mountain Resort. Business and community leaders gathered alongside state and federal officials to examine how Northern Michigan businesses and communities can best prepare for the future. Panelists discussed macroeconomic and industry-specific outlooks for the state and region. Symposium attendees also participated in breakout sessions covering critical topics, including regional demographic trends, business succession planning, development projects shaping our communities, and enhanced technologies that will impact the future of manufacturing in northern Michigan.

REPRESENTING NORTHERN MICHIGAN AT MACKINAC POLICY CONFERENCE

The NMCA once again joined business and government leaders from across the state at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Annual Mackinac Policy Conference. This year, the Alliance was pleased with a significant increase in representation from partners and their board members, who attended to represent northern Michigan and further develop relationships with key stakeholders. Partners had the opportunity to engage with business and policy leaders on key issues, including the state budget and new legislation aimed at enhancing economic development.



Additionally, the Alliance hosted a joint reception with several southeast Michigan chambers, which saw a great turnout and facilitated key networking opportunities. Several key elected officials attended, including Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, U.S. Senator Mallory McMorrow, State Senator John Damoose, State Rep. John Roth, and several members of the Governor's team.

DETROIT MAYOR MIKE DUGGAN JOINS JUNE MEETING

The Mayor of Detroit, Mike Duggan, joined the Alliance meeting in June to discuss statewide progress. Among his updates, Mayor Duggan celebrated the city of Detroit's journey from bankruptcy to becoming a top 100 city in America. The Alliance advocated for state support of our three areas of focus: regionally driven economic development, talent attraction and retention, and rural prosperity. Mayor Duggan emphasized the importance of community revitalization for economic progress.

DIRECTOR OF LEO SUSAN CORBIN JOINS APRIL MEETING

The Alliance welcomed Susan Corbin, director of the Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity, to the April meeting to hear key updates. In celebration of the first anniversary of the first-ever Michigan Statewide Workforce Plan, Director Corbin discussed the plan's three pillars, which include ensuring 60% of citizens have a post-secondary degree or skill certificate by

2030, bringing 75,000 additional households into the middle class by 2027, and finding creative solutions to improve workforce participation rate. Director Corbin also provided 2024 updates, including recent accolades naming Michigan #1 in the nation for helping individuals with disabilities secure employment and #4 for actively registered apprentices.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE TATE VISITS TRAVERSE CITY

The Alliance hosted State Representative Joe Tate for a visit to Traverse City, where he learned more about regional tourism, manufacturing, and small-business priorities.

The visit began at Discovery Pier, where Rep. Tate met with Matt McDonough, CEO of the Discovery Center & Pier, and Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Northwestern Michigan College, to discuss the future of the Fresh Water Research & Innovation Center. Following a tour of downtown Traverse City, the Alliance convened a group of industry leaders for lunch and a tour of KEEN & TC Millworks to explore how manufacturing and utility innovation are advancing sustainability and regional job creation. The Alliance then led a site visit to Clark Manufacturing, where CEO

Brian Walter highlighted local precision manufacturing capabilities. The tour concluded with a behind-the-scenes tour of Cherry Capital Airport's expansion project, led by the airport's CEO, Kevin Klein.



ALLIANCE MEMBERS



SUPPORTING PARTNERS



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PROUD PARTNERS OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER ALLIANCE

