



**FLY-IN**

**DUBUQUE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**300 Main Street**  
**DUBUQUE , IA 52001**



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DC FLY-IN

# AGENDA

## TUESDAY MARCH 12

3:00pm

**Capitol Tour** (Optional)

**Where:** Capitol Visitors Center (at the tall white statue)

**With:** Hinson Staff, Natalie Ross

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 13

8:00am

**Bus departs from the Washington  
Marriott Capitol Hill**

**Where:** 175 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20002

8:30am

**Meet with Congresswoman Hinson**

**Where:** Longworth House Office Building, Room 1717

**City Meetings** (Optional, but encouraged)

5:00pm - 7:00pm

**Evening Reception**

**Where:** The Capitol View Room

American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI)  
101 Constitution NW, 7th Floor

*\*Hors d'oeuvres & Host Bar*

# THURSDAY MARCH 14

9:00am

## ***Meet with Senator Grassley***

**Where:** Capitol Building, Room S120  
(First floor of the Capitol)

*\*Guests will enter via the North Door of the Capitol and check in at the appointments desk.*

10:00am-10:45am

## ***U.S. Chamber Briefing***

**Where:** Capitol Building, Room S120  
(First floor of the Capitol)

11:40am

## ***Meet with Senator Ernst***

**Where:** Russell Senate Building, Room 260





CONGRESSWOMAN  
**ASHLEY  
HINSON**  
(IA-02)

Congresswoman Ashley Hinson represents Iowa's 2nd Congressional District. Hinson is a native of Des Moines, Iowa and a graduate of Valley High School. She studied broadcast journalism at the University of Southern California. Hinson began her career as an anchor for KCRG-TV9 out of Cedar Rapids. Hinson is a two-time Midwest regional Emmy award winner, an RTDNA Health Reporting Fellow, and a Waypoint Tribute to Women Honoree

Hinson was the Iowa State Representative for the 67th district from 2017 to 2021, which covers Robins, Hiawatha, and Cedar Rapids. Hinson is the first woman to represent the district in the Iowa Statehouse. She won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2020 election.

Ashley and her husband Matt are raising their two sons in Marion. Her children motivate her every day to fight for a better community and a stronger economy for all Iowa families. Ashley is also an active member of her community, regularly playing violin at Antioch Christian Church and volunteering with local charities.

## COMMITTEES

- House Committee on Appropriations
  - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee
  - Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
  - Homeland Security Subcommittee
- House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party

Senator Chuck Grassley, a native Iowan from New Hartford, represents the State of Iowa in the U.S. Senate. Grassley's political journey began with his election to the Iowa state legislature in 1958. He continued to serve until 1974 when he transitioned to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1980, he secured a seat in the U.S. Senate, making him the longest-serving senator in Iowa's history. Throughout his tenure, Grassley has been noted for his commitment to bipartisan collaboration and practical problem-solving.

Educated in Political Science at the University of Northern Iowa, Grassley maintains strong ties to his alma mater, often attending athletic events to support the Panthers. He has deep connections to his family farm, where he still assists in farming today. He has been happily married to his wife Barbara for 70 years, and together they have raised five children.

Grassley is known for his annual 99-county tour, a tradition he has upheld for 43 consecutive years, demonstrating his dedication to engaging with constituents across Iowa. As the most senior Republican in the U.S. Senate, Grassley holds significant influence, particularly as the top-ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.



SENATOR  
**CHUCK  
GRASSLEY**

## COMMITTEES

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  - Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade
  - Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy
- Committee on Finance
  - Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth (Ranking)
  - Subcommittee on Health Care
  - Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight
- Committee on the Budget (Ranking)
- Committee on the Judiciary
  - Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
  - Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism
  - Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights
  - Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety
- Joint Committee on Taxation
- United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control (Vice Chairman)





SENATOR  
**JONI  
ERNST**

Senator Joni Ernst, a proud native of Red Oak, represents the State of Iowa in the U.S. Senate. Raised on a farm in Montgomery County, she was deeply influenced by her parents who instilled in her the core values of hard work, service, and sacrifice which are cherished by Iowans.

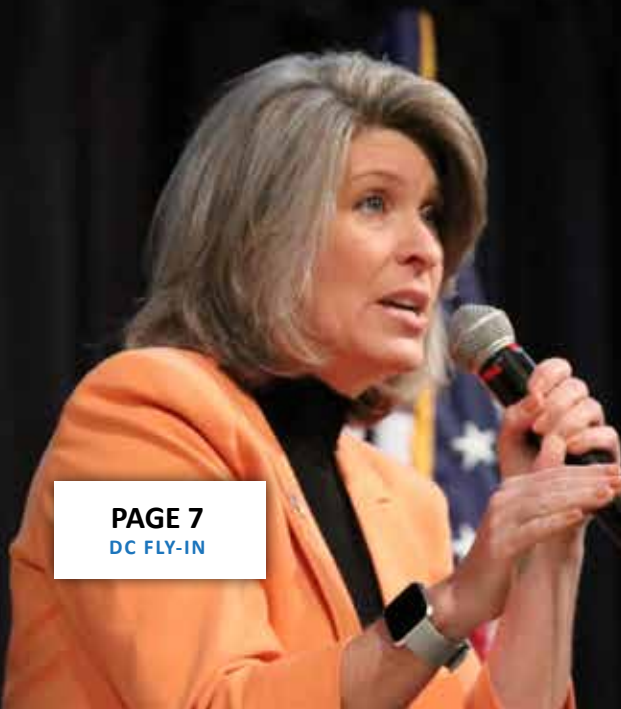
After graduating as the valedictorian of Stanton High School, Joni pursued her education at Iowa State University, where she joined the ROTC program. Notably, in 2003, she served as a company commander in Kuwait and Iraq, leading 150 Iowa Army National Guardsmen during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Joni retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard, having dedicated herself to the service of her country.

In November 2014, Joni Ernst made history by becoming the first woman from Iowa elected to federal office. Additionally, she holds the distinction of being the first female combat veteran elected to the U.S. Senate.

Prior to her Senate service, Senator Ernst served as the Montgomery County Auditor, further demonstrating her commitment to public service and leadership.

## COMMITTEES

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  - Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade
  - Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research
  - Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy
- Committee on Armed Services
  - Subcommittee on Airland
  - Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
  - Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities (Ranking)
- Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (Ranking)



DUBUQUE AREA CHAMBER

DC FLY-IN

# PRIORITIES 2024



# DC FLY-IN PRIORITIES

*Top Priority* ● **Restoring, Retaining and Enhancing Daily Scheduled Commercial Air Service from the DBQ Regional Airport to a Major Hub(s)**

*Top Priority* ● **Protecting and Enhancing Federal Historic Tax Credits**

*Top Priority* ● **Workforce + Immigration + Removing Barriers to Employment**

*Top Priority* ● **Global Competitiveness: Support City of Dubuque Grant Applications**

- *Talent Attraction/Retention-Increase Funding for Childcare Development Block Grant (CCDBG)*
- *Talent Development-Protect and Enhance the Pell Grant*
- *Return to Multi-Lateral Trade*
- *Protect the Qualified Business Income Deduction*



For more information on the Dubuque Area Chamber's Federal Legislative Priorities see page 12.

## TALKING POINTS

### **Economic Development + Air Service**

- Rural America is being left behind by the air service industry
- DBQ Iowa with the exception of Del Rio Texas has to drive the furthest to access the global marketplace
- Rural America being disproportionately impacted by reduced flight frequency
- Increase Pilot Retirement Age from 65 to 67
- Modernize Essential Air Service and Small Community Air Service Development Programs
- Pass FAA Reauthorization

### **Workforce**

- Iowa is the slowest growth state in the union since 1900
- Expand qualifications for the Conrad 30 Program to include DBQ's healthcare clinics and hospitals
- Continued funding for Childcare Development Block Grant (CCDBG) & Federal Pell Grant

# DBQ Air: Taking Flight For Economic Prosperity

## VISION

Create regional economic growth and sustainability through air service development and supporting programs

## MISSION

Restore, Retain, and Increase daily commercial air service from the DBQ Regional Airport to a major hub(s)

## STRATEGY

**Air Service:** Build a diverse air service portfolio with multiple routes, hubs and carriers

**Advocacy:** Advance policies that support air service development for the Dubuque Regional Airport

**Education:** Engage stakeholders, local, industry and government partners

**Funding:** Create perpetual funding mechanism as resource for on-going flight development

**Marketing:** Collaborate and generate sufficient marketing and promotional support to ensure success of added flight service

## The DBQ Air Service Dilemma

RURAL AMERICA IS BEING LEFT BEHIND

- September 2022 Loss of all daily commercial air service
- Not eligible for Essential Air Service (EAS)
- Community funds to support Minimum Revenue Guarantees (MRG)
- Aviation Workforce Shortage
- Pilot Shortage/Reduced small jet inventory
- 75 Miles to closest access to Global Marketplace
- Businesses and residents Impacted

## The DBQ Air Service Crusade

DBQ Regional Airport, City, County, Chamber, GDDC, Travel Dubuque, DRA

Established DBQ Air  
Local non-profit in support of Dubuque Air Service

Executed Comprehensive Air Service Study (Business and Residential)

Awarded US DOT Small Community Air Service Development Program Grant- \$2.1M (Including local dollars)

Protected \$1M in Federal AIP Funding

19,022 Enplanements 2023

Formation of CAST  
The Commercial Air Service Team

Addition of Ultra Low-Cost Carrier Service to Leisure Destination

Enhancing the Fly DBQ Experience  
New family area, free parking, food and beverage, customer service



# FLY DBQ by the numbers

(Results provided by the Chamber's Air Service Survey)

**\$142**  
for convenience

**Convenience Matters!** Respondents stated they were willing to pay an average of \$142 more per ticket for the convenience, time savings and efficiency of flights out of the DBQ Regional Airport

**53%**

Over half (53%) of employers indicated their air travel operations are back to their pre-COVID levels

**91%**

91% of constituents surveyed indicated that they support efforts to recruit DBQ air service.

**73%**

73% of employers surveyed support efforts to attract service understanding it may require financial guarantees and 69% of employers surveyed support the use of City/County funds to attract service.

**97%**

97% of constituents expect increased air service will have a positive impact on the greater Dubuque economy.

**ORD**

Chicago O'Hare is the most favored hub destination with 83% of employers surveyed including this hub in their top two choices. Dallas is the second most favored hub followed by Denver, Minneapolis

## Federal Legislative Priorities

### Address Aviation Workforce Shortages

- Increase pilot mandatory retirement age from 65 to 67
- Bolster the pipeline of aviation workers to increase number of pilots, mechanics and aerospace workers to meet industry demands
- Change tax law to allow use of 529 plans to fund technical training (such as flight training and aircraft maintenance technician programs)
- Increase funding for FAA's Aviation Workforce Grant program

### Pass FAA Reauthorization

- Provide a minimum of \$4B Annually for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
- Eliminate the federal cap on local PFCs
- Extend PFCs eligibility to include any lawful capital cost of the airport

### Ensure Air Service for Rural America

- Modernize Essential Air Service and the Small Community Air Service Development programs
- Allow scheduled Part 135 operation of small regional jet aircraft to serve smaller markets



DUBUQUE AREA CHAMBER

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

LEGISLATIVE  
AGENDA  
2024

# *Federal* WORKFORCE

*The Tri-State's growing need for workforce is unsustainable. Iowa is the only state in the union not to have doubled our population since the early 1900's. Furthermore, Dubuque and Grant Counties have worked diligently and impressively to grow our population from the low-point of the mid-1980's while Jo Daviess County has continued to decline. The Dubuque MSA population peaked in 1976, while Grant and Jo Daviess counties peaked in 1981, and we returned to that peak only in 2013 and 2015 respectively – with Joe Daviess remaining far below their population peak.*

*The Dubuque Area business community strongly believe that business and government must come together to solve what has been and will continue to be the most pressing issue for growth – population.*

*The Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce proposes two important areas where the federal government can step in to assist business in solving the region's population dilemma: Investment in the development and retention of talent including funding for childcare programs and investment in Pell grants; and Immigration reform that ushers in a new era that embraces our history as a welcoming place where people from across the world can find their American dream.*



## **Workforce** **PRIORITIES IN DETAIL**

### **Talent**

*Developing, attracting, and retaining talent in our region is of the utmost importance as we aim to solve the population issue. Developing talent means ensuring we can recognize and support skill development of our existing workforce. Attracting and retaining our talent will require investment in quality-of-life resources that families have come to expect. As we continue to see the lasting impacts of COVID-19 we believe the federal government can support talent initiatives in our communities through the following actions:*

***Increase federal funds for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to support wage enhancement, recruitment, and retention in our childcare centers.***

***Protect and enhance the Pell grant to support enrollment in higher education.***

### **Immigration**

*The American immigration system is not working for American businesses. An overly complex visa system, tied to outdated rules for residency and college graduates has made it difficult to attract, retain, and develop foreign talent who wishes to start a career and life in the United States. July 2022 Bureau of Labor Statistics Data shows nearly 800,000 open jobs between Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois alone – with more than 11 million job openings nationwide. The Chamber supports federal action to create, simplify, and expand the following programs:*

***Create a startup Visa program to support immigrant entrepreneurs and a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients.***

***Simplify the H-1B, H-2B visa application/approval process; post-graduate opportunities for employment and citizenship for foreign students who earn a degree in the United States.***

***Expand the cap on H-1B & H-2B visas and the Conrad 30 program for medical professionals.***

***Expand the qualifications for the Conrad 30 program, to include Dubuque's healthcare clinics and hospitals within the program.***

# *Federal* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*The Tri-State area is a growing region of Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin and the federal government plays a key role in ensuring that growth continues. The passage of the bipartisan infrastructure package is the largest investment in generations towards America's global competitiveness, but we cannot stop there. We believe the federal government must continue to look for ways to support and incentivize future growth. For the Tri-States, that means continuing to work to promote solutions that will return legacy carrier service to the Dubuque Regional Airport; maintaining and enhancing development incentives; and supporting municipal requests for federal funding as a result of the bipartisan infrastructure law.*



## **Economic Development** **PRIORITIES IN DETAIL**

### ***Invest in America's Global Competitiveness***

*The Federal Government plays a key role in financing economic development throughout the country. In addition, the federal government creates the framework for development through regulation and incentives. This includes the historic preservation tax credit, which in Dubuque alone has spurred more than \$216 million in investment. We also will support local municipal applications to federal departments to access the significant funding made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.*

***Protect and enhance the historic tax credit.***

***Promote local applications for federal funding including funding to support South Port Flood wall enhancements and overpass development to mitigate impacts from the CN merger.***

***Request Army Corps of Engineers and federal legislators help with river transportation issues related to dredging and getting locks reconstructed south of Dubuque.***

### ***Air Service at the Dubuque Regional Airport***

*The Dubuque Regional Airport along with our location on the Mississippi river, an international trade thoroughfare, makes us a hub for logistics in the region. It is imperative to the future success of the tri-states region to support and grow these assets. To that end, Dubuque's loss of air service in September of 2022 has been a major blow to economic development and workforce attraction & retention efforts in the region. The business community supports efforts to restore service as soon as possible to ensure the tri-state region has ready access to the global marketplace.*

***Return Air Service to Dubuque***

***Increase the mandatory retirement age for pilots from 65 to 67 to provide some immediate, near-term relief to the pilot shortage issue.***

*Federal*  
**REGULATION  
& TAX**

*Businesses in the tri-state region believe in a light-touch regulatory approach that emphasizes narrowly tailored regulation for purposes of health and safety, which punishes bad actors while holding lawful business owners harmless. Overly broad regulation can unintentionally impact entire communities and industries. We also believe in the pursuit of lower taxation that provides for the efficient delivery of government services and programs while allowing business owners to invest back into their company and workers. To that end we support the following:*



## **Regulation & Tax**

# **PRIORITIES IN DETAIL**

### **International Trade**

*America's access to the global marketplace is of the utmost importance to our status as a global leader in trade and diplomacy. The tariffs implemented over recent years have shaken up the status quo of trade and had unintended consequences of increasing prices directly to U.S. consumers and forced the unplanned disconnection of existing supply chains and formation of new ones. This disruption helps to explain the dire supply chain backlog which has finally begun to dissipate. In addition to tariffs, the U.S. leadership role in multi-lateral trade negotiations has faltered over the past half decade, with protectionist trade policies that negatively impact America's global standing. We can accomplish this while honoring and protecting American intellectual property which of paramount concern for investors and founders.*

*The Chamber supports a move back to multi-lateral trade that lowers the barrier to entry for U.S. companies into foreign markets while protecting intellectual property rights of American innovators.*

### **Maintain Tax Cuts and Jobs Act**

*The tax cuts and jobs act was one of the largest investments in economic growth and competitiveness for America in decades. These tax cuts, which among other things brought our corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% making the United States competitive with OECD member states. According to a 2020 analysis by the Tax Foundation "OECD member states have an average statutory corporate tax rate of 23.51 percent, and a rate of 26.30 percent when weighted by GDP." The Chamber supports maintaining these tax cuts into the future to ensure we remain globally competitive for corporate investment in the coming decades. Included within the Tax Cuts and Jobs act is the Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction. This deduction supports pass through entities as they grow and maintaining this provision is of great importance to the small business community.*

#### **Protect/renew the QBI deduction**

*Extension of opportunity zone program, allowing more projects to take full advantage of the tax incentives for investment.*



DUBUQUE AREA  
  
CHAMBER

TURNING  
  
USE X-WALK

RU  
  
BY THIS  
NAL



Construction signs with text and graphics, including a red and white striped barrier.

