

2020 Legislative Agenda

Minnesota High Tech Association

Advancing Science and Technology Research & Company Formation

MHTA's goal is to strengthen Minnesota's science and technology ecosystem through funding for research and development activities and accelerate company formation. That's why MHTA is requesting funding and the establishment of a new incentive to support and encourage these activities. **MHTA supports:**

- Continued funding for the **Angel Investment Tax Credit** to encourage investment in Minnesota-based science and technology startups.
- Establishing an elective state **alternative simplified R&D tax credit** of six percent on all qualified research expenses for the taxable year above the base amount.

Cybersecurity

MHTA's goal is to grow Minnesota's software industry and protect unwanted access of digital assets. An important aspect of protecting digital assets is sharing information among stakeholders who have an interest in protecting data. The ability for policymakers and others to share confidential or sensitive information is crucial, especially in time-sensitive or security-related incidents—ensuring the Legislature has in place the structure to gather the appropriate information is crucial to its ability to make informed decisions on a complex, sensitive topic like cybersecurity. **That's why MHTA recommends establishing a:**

- **Legislative cybersecurity commission** to develop legislation to support and strengthen Minnesota's cybersecurity infrastructure.

Broadband and Telecommunications

MHTA's goal is to expand the availability and use of broadband technology to access new markets, enhance educational opportunities, improve quality of life, and provide Minnesota citizens and businesses the capabilities necessary to compete in a dynamic, global marketplace. To accomplish this, we need a consistent set of ground rules. **That's why MHTA recommends:**

- **Upholding Minnesota's existing Internet privacy statutes and regulations** and encourage any clarification or refinement of statutes and regulations pertaining to the Internet to occur at the federal level.
- **Advancing robocall legislation at the federal level.** A nationwide patchwork of state laws governing telecommunications providers in their effort to prevent robocalls would make it more onerous on providers and create more harm for consumers, not less. That's why a national framework to prevent robocalls is needed.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property is the backbone of America's technology-based economy. Ensuring that innovators have the protections they need to secure their intellectual property is crucial for advancing Minnesota's technology-based economy. **That's why MHTA opposes:**

- Efforts, **such as right to repair legislation**, that allow uncertified repairs to electronic equipment and other devices with sensitive intellectual property.

STEM Higher Education

Ensuring that Minnesota's institutions of higher education are well-funded and able to provide a cutting edge, quality education is critical to helping Minnesota maintain its competitive advantage. That's why MHTA supports funding requests from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State. **In particular, MHTA supports the following 2020 capital requests:**

University of Minnesota

- \$65.6 million for Chemistry Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory at the Twin Cities Campus

Minnesota State

- \$14.7 million for renovation of the Technology and Business Center at Inver Hills Community College
- \$1.0 million for design of the Integrated Manufacturing Workforce Labs at Lake Superior College
- \$3.9 million for renovation and design of the Cyber Security Program at Metropolitan State University



Public Policy Principles

The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) advocates for public policy that strengthens Minnesota's technology-based economy and positions Minnesota as a global leader through the development and use of advanced technologies.

MHTA develops, supports and advocates for policies that promote the long-term growth, sustainability and global competitiveness of Minnesota's technology-based economy.

MHTA believes that strong, consistent, focused leadership from the private sector, working in collaboration with academic, nonprofit and government partners, is the critical link in driving our state's development and recognition as a global technology leader.

MHTA will advocate for policies that strengthen Minnesota's science and technology workforce, as well as those that leverage technology to increase government efficiency and improve and sustain Minnesota's infrastructure.

MHTA will sponsor, support and/or respond to legislation that furthers these principles. Additionally, MHTA will respond to issues and potential legislation that affect member companies and technology businesses in Minnesota as they arise.

MHTA
400 SOUTH 4TH STREET
SUITE 416
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
952-230-4555
WWW.MHTA.ORG

Jeff Tollefson
President & CEO

Patrick Joyce
MHTA Board Chair

Doug Carnival
MHTA Board Secretary

David Minkkinen
Chair – MHTA Government
Affairs Committee