A skilled workforce is fundamental to a prosperous American metals industry, but the United States faces a growing “skills gap”—making it difficult for manufacturers to hire qualified workers for well-paying jobs.

The United States has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world, and the rates many American small businesses pay are also high. Establishing more competitive tax rates for small businesses, corporations and individuals will make the United States an attractive place to invest, live and work.

Our nation’s infrastructure is crumbling: the United States ranks 13th in the world, behind countries such as the Netherlands, Iceland and Denmark, when it comes to the overall quality of our infrastructure. Our broken transportation system hinders the metals industry’s ability to buy, sell and trade. It also reduces employee productivity and increases business costs so U.S. companies are less competitive globally.

As a nation and an industry, we must embrace the benefits of international trade, but our leaders must ensure our trading partners play by an established set of international rules, including currency policy. Policymakers must foster strategic trading relationships and free and fair-trade agreements that encourage U.S. partners to play by those rules, and allow for expedient and efficient legal action when they are violated.

MSCI is the voice of the industrial metals supply chain, representing more than 300 member companies that operate in more than 1,200 business locations across North America. The materials we produce are used to create the everyday products that make consumers’ lives easier, more productive and more enjoyable. Our economic impact is greater than the film, aircraft manufacturing and software industries combined.

We inventory, cut, fold, shape, polish and further process metal purchased from mills, and then sell these products directly to manufacturers, fabricators, machine shops and others in the industrial metals supply chain.

Ripple Effect = 898,402 jobs

Are indirectly supported by the industrial metals industry through the indirect impact of the metals supply chain in the community.