STATE *of* NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-22

Coordinated Strategy for Statewide Economic Growth and Competitiveness

WHEREAS, Nebraska is the premier place in the nation to do business, invest, raise a family, and build a high-quality life; and

WHEREAS, since 2023, the State of Nebraska has enacted transformative tax relief, cut burdensome red tape, streamlined government operations, and made unprecedented investments in local infrastructure, creating an economic momentum that is second to none across the country; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska is blessed with unmatched natural assets, including stewardship of the Ogallala Aquifer, the largest underground water source in North America, which provides an abundant, resilient foundation for agriculture, manufacturing, bioenergy, and sustainable economic growth; and

WHEREAS, gold-standard national benchmarks validate Nebraska's economic strength, ranking Nebraska as the 5th Best State Overall and the #1 State in Infrastructure in the nation (U.S. News & World Report), the 3rd Most Affordable Energy State for business fueled by 100% public power (U.S. Energy Information Administration), and a leader in fiscal stability backed by a top-tier AAA government credit rating; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's world-class workforce, esteemed educational institutions, safe communities, and low cost of doing business make our state an unstoppable destination for capital investment, corporate expansion, and talent retention; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's 6 Regions, One Nebraska strategy created by my Office, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), and the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry to convene leaders, by community college region, to design and implement collaborative

economic development projects has demonstrated that collaboration between leaders and local communities drives regional growth; and

WHEREAS, winning on the national and global stage requires one unified approach, bringing together state government, local economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, and business leaders across all 93 counties and Nebraska's six regions (Western, Mid-Plains, Central, Northeast, Southeast, and Metro) to fire on all cylinders and use all resources to their fullest.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Pillen, Governor of the State of Nebraska, under and pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Nebraska, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of the Governor's Economic Growth Working Group

There is hereby established the Governor's Economic Growth Working Group (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Group") to serve as an advisory and alignment platform to break down operational silos, foster ongoing communication, and ensure state and local partners work in full alignment toward our shared economic growth objectives.

The Working Group shall be chaired by the Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED). Membership shall include executive leadership and designated representatives from: the Governor's Policy Research Office (GPRO), DED, the Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA), the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Greater Omaha Chamber, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, regional economic development organizations, and partners spanning Nebraska's six regions.

The Governor or the Chair may invite additional representatives or subject matter experts from these participating entities as necessary to ensure comprehensive representation and expertise across all economic sectors and geographic regions of the state. The Working Group shall meet regularly at the call of the Chair to review progress, coordinate strategic initiatives, and maintain alignment.

Section 2. Implement a Unified Statewide Strategic Plan

To align efforts across the state, the Working Group shall convene to co-design and publish a comprehensive, multi-year statewide strategic plan for economic development. The strategic plan shall establish a shared vision, strategic priorities, and collaborative implementation measures to advance economic opportunities across all regions of Nebraska.

As a core component of this strategic framework, the Working Group shall support reoccurring statewide engagement tours and business roundtables led by DED across each of Nebraska's six regions to maintain a direct state-local feedback loop with job creators and reinforce that Nebraska is open for business.

Section 3. Develop a Coordinated Site Selection and Corporate Engagement Calendar

The Working Group shall establish an annual, prioritized statewide site selection and corporate recruitment plan by evaluating national site-selector conferences, trade missions, corporate headquarters visits, and industry expos. Jointly, the Working Group shall identify key priority events where Nebraska must be represented and facilitate joint outreach combining state leadership, DED team members, NEDA partners, and regional chamber leaders to deliver a strong, cohesive message to corporate decision-makers.

Section 4. Maintain a Statewide Site and Asset Inventory

To maximize Nebraska's speed-to-market and elevate site competitiveness, the Working Group shall coordinate and maintain a shared statewide inventory of available sites and assets. This inventory shall build directly upon existing statutory frameworks, previous legislative site readiness initiatives, and voluntary local inputs to maintain a synchronized catalog of available industrial sites, commercial properties, and pre-development assets.

Section 5. Shared Coordination and Operational Support

The Working Group, under the guidance of the Chair and in coordination with participating partner entities, shall establish appropriate administrative and operational support to carry out its responsibilities.

To establish immediate momentum while building a lasting framework for statewide economic growth, the Working Group shall submit an initial strategic alignment framework to the Office of the Governor on or before December 31, 2026. This framework will be utilized to publish its comprehensive multi-year statewide strategic plan by June 30, 2027, updating the plan annually thereafter to maintain long-term alignment.

The Working Group shall establish and continuously maintain the statewide site selection and corporate recruitment plan, updating site-selection priorities, trade missions, and outreach events on an ongoing basis as economic opportunities arise.

The Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon execution.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 29th day of September 2026.

Jim Pillen, Governor
State of Nebraska

Attest:

Robert Evnen, Secretary of State
State of Nebraska