

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST DEFENSE COALITION (PNDC)

## ADVOCACY AGENDA

**PNDC convenes regular Congressional Roundtable discussions to bring our members face-to-face with U.S. Representatives and Senators to ensure that Congress and federal agencies understand and address the needs of Northwest defense/security businesses.**



Visit [pndc.us/advocacy](http://pndc.us/advocacy) to learn more

**Focusing on federal issues, we leverage the voice of over 20,000 Pacific Northwest constituent families to address issues impacting Pacific Northwest lives and businesses.**

# **PNDC ADVOCACY AGENDA IN ACTION**

## **1. Address Impacts of Tariffs & International Competition:**

- Protect Northwest manufacturers' intellectual property from unfair international competition.
- Modify federal procurement and contracting policies to address impacts of tariffs on U.S. contractors.
- Enhance enforcement of Buy American Act provisions, the Berry Amendment, and similar laws regarding U.S.-made requirements.

## **2. Sustain Defense & Homeland Security Funding:**

- Adequately fund defense and homeland security programs to protect our nation's security and provide budget certainty for complete fiscal years.
- Ensure adequate acquisition staffing capacity.
- Protect force structure and Pacific Northwest military base investments given our strategic Pacific location and critical inland waterways.
- Increase federal investment for roads and infrastructure critical to domestic base operations.
- Strengthen National Guard investment, which is critical to national and homeland security.
- Stabilize and strengthen research and development funding for defense and homeland security programs.

## **3. Enact Defense Acquisition Policy Reforms:**

- Reform outdated and cumbersome defense acquisition processes.
- Evaluate life-cycle or long-term value of products and services (not just the first-year cost or lowest price technically acceptable), thereby saving money while rewarding those businesses producing quality, durable goods.
- Establish contract sizes and scopes that best enable smaller businesses to compete for contracts.
- Enhance agency communications with potential contractors about procurement needs and opportunities.
- Address abuse of the bid protest process, which increases costs and delays.
- Secure more consistent execution of set-aside goals and requirements.
- Consistently and practicably revise the DFAR cybersecurity rules, so businesses can reasonably comply.

## **4. Strengthen Workforce Training & Funding:**

- Increase federal support to better train students/workers in STEM and skilled manufacturing jobs.
- Fund workforce training matching grants to K-12 districts, community colleges, and/or universities for workforce training – especially for technology/equipment upgrades.
- Strengthen apprenticeship programs to better prepare workers for demands of the 21st Century economy.
- Implement policies that result in the successful hiring of more veterans.

## **5. Export Control Reform:**

- Reform requirements and documentation for contractors to allow easier and more efficient compliance.
- Reform ITAR to create more rational restricted products list, increasing export opportunities by NW businesses.
- Expedite export license approvals to help NW businesses better compete with international companies.
- Streamline regulations to allow easier testing and better entry into market, especially for newer technologies.