Health and Safety

The Chamber seeks to improve workplace wellness in the United States business community by:

- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber hosts annual forums to highlight trends in workplace and community wellness initiatives32);
- commissioning and publishing research (e.g. in 2016, the Chamber released a study on the impact of wellness on workforce productivity in global markets33); and
- sharing information and best practice34.

Environment

The Chamber seeks to improve the environmental performance of the United States business community by:

- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber recently hosted a workshop on recycling optimisation35);
- developing industry guidance (e.g. the Chamber, in collaboration with the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, developed a toolkit to improve energy and water efficiency36);
- administering recognition programs (such as its environmental stewardship awards); and
- sharing information and best practice37.

The Chamber frequently engages on environmental issues such as the regulatory approach of the United States Environmental Protection Agency38, the Clean Air Act and the Ozone Standards Implementation Act39, and the Clean Water Rule40.

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**Community**

The Chamber seeks to improve how United States businesses engage with the communities in which they operate by:

- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber hosted a workshop on how the private sector could create economic development opportunities in the Twin Cities);
- administering recognition programs (such as its Corporate Citizenship Award); and
- sharing information and best practice.

The Chamber launched the Native American Enterprise Initiative (NAEI) in 2012 ‘to promote the interests and agenda of tribes and tribal entrepreneurs’. The NAEI engages on a number of legislative and judicial priorities (including, most recently, passage of the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act).

**Workforce**

The Chamber seeks to improve the inclusion and diversity performance of the United States business community by:

- developing industry guidance (e.g. the Chamber has developed guidance on how businesses can create and implement programs aimed at fostering inclusivity, empowerment and respect);
- hosting events (e.g. the Chamber hosted America Working Forward in October to ‘showcase employer-led solutions to closing the skills gap’);
- commissioning and publishing research (e.g. the Chamber, in partnership with the United Nations and the Harvard Kennedy School, undertook research on the role of corporations in supporting women’s economic empowerment); and
- sharing information and best practice.

The Chamber engages on workforce issues such as securing Congress action on undocumented migrants who arrived in the United States as children, improving the approach of the National Labor Relations Board, and improving gender diversity outcomes.

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The Chamber frequently engages on economic issues such as reducing red tape\(^{51}\), managing the federal debt\(^{52}\), boosting trade and investment\(^{53}\), and improving the growth impacts of America’s corporate tax system\(^{54}\).

The Chamber has strongly supported United States involvement in bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements, and sought to convey the benefits of international trade to its stakeholders\(^{55}\).

The Chamber supports international economic engagement through its International Affairs Division. The Chamber is also steward of the American Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AmChams), which comprises more than 115 American Chambers of Commerce in 103 countries\(^{56}\). The AmChams provide export-import trade leads, facilitate meetings between business leaders and governments, and share information and best practice.

**Summary view**

The Chamber is a high profile and longstanding industry association that plays a significant role in the United States business community. We have been a member of the Chamber since 2011. We derive benefits from the association’s advocacy on economic issues, including free trade. We also derive some benefit from having access to issue experts at the Chamber, and the Chamber’s information-sharing activities. However, while the Chamber is active across a number of areas of importance to BHP (particularly health and safety, environment, community and workforce), we rely less on the Chamber to improve our performance in these areas compared to other major industry associations.

We differ with the Chamber in some policy areas (as is to be expected given the breadth of the organisation), including in recent times in relation to the potential introduction of regulations requiring the publication by US extractives companies of their payments to governments. The Chamber opposed the introduction of the proposed Securities and Exchange Commission rule 1504\(^{57}\). This rule was supported by BHP.