

February 14, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Wolf, Ranking Members Hutchison and Fattah,

The undersigned associations, representing tens of thousands of U.S. manufacturers and millions of employees, respectfully urge you to support funding the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) at \$125 million in the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution.

MEP is critical to the creation and retention of U.S. manufacturing jobs. Each year, the program is validated by an independent third party. Based on their latest report, the MEP program created and retained 72,075 jobs in FY09 alone and more than 318,000 since the program was created in 1988.

The federal funding for this program is essential to leveraging equal investments from both the state and local governments and client fees. In FY09 this public/private program created or retained \$8.4 billion in sales, allowed their clients to make \$1.9 billion in new investments, and provided \$1.3 billion in cost savings.

Manufacturing is key to our economic recovery and job creation. Thank you in advance for preserving \$125 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program in the FY11 Continuing Resolution.

Respectfully,

Aerospace Industries Association
Alliance for American Manufacturing
American Small Manufacturers Coalition
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Arlington (TX) Chamber of Commerce
Association for Manufacturing Excellence
Associated Industries of Florida
Associated Industries of Missouri
BIOCOM
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
California Space Authority

Dallas County Manufacturers' Association
Garland Chamber of Commerce
Delaware Manufacturing Association
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Fabricators & Manufacturers Association
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Manufacturing Association of North Texas
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Manufacturing Council
National Association of Manufacturers
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Defense Industrial Association
National Tooling and Machining Association
Nevada Manufacturers Association
North Central Texas InterLink, Inc.
The Ohio Manufacturers Association
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association - California
Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association
Reshoring Initiative
San Antonio Manufacturers Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Society of Plastics Engineers, So Cal Section
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Texas Economic Development Council
United States Chamber of Commerce
Utah Manufacturers Association
Washington County Manufacturers' Association

cc: United States House of Representatives
United States Senate