

Jay Timmons

Executive Vice President

May 11, 2010

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.

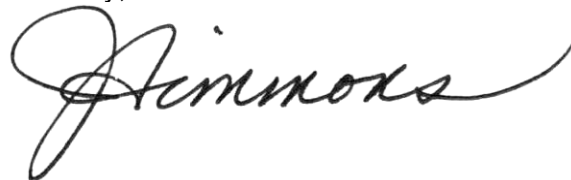
The NAM strongly supports reauthorization of the COMPETES Act, as its programs are working to strengthen innovation in the U.S. manufacturing sector and to build a stronger workforce. Key programs in H.R. 5116 of significant interest to manufacturers include: federal funding for basic R&D; the Advanced Research Projects Administration for Energy (ARPA-E); the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which helps thousands of small and medium manufacturers increase their productivity and technological capabilities; and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education grants that will help increase the number and quality of students receiving degrees in areas of importance to manufacturers.

Our economic future relies more than ever on our ability to innovate, and reauthorizing the COMPETES Act will help manufacturers prosper in a globally integrated and highly competitive marketplace. We urge your support for H.R. 5116.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that all votes related to H.R. 5116, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jay Timmons

Key Manufacturing Vote