Remarks Prepared for Delivery
Jay Timmons, President and CEO
National Association of Manufacturers
SCHOTT North America, Inc. Tour and Remarks with Vice President Mike Pence
October 21, 2019
Duryea, PA

Thank you, Rob [Gomeau], for being a leader for the USMCA and manufacturers—and thank you for opening this facility to all of us today.

We're here at a pivotal moment for the manufacturing industry—and a defining moment for this company.

Congratulations to you and the rest of the team at SCHOTT North America for reaching an historic milestone: the 50th anniversary of this Duryea factory.

We're excited to join you to celebrate a half-century of producing high-quality glass that has reached customers around the world—and is literally making its way across the universe.

Glass from SCHOTT was in the optical systems used during the moon landing 50 years ago, and it is outside of our solar system on the Pioneer and Voyager space probes today.

Now, as Rob said, we're also honored to have Vice President Mike Pence joining us.

This is the second time the Vice President and I have been here in Pennsylvania, at a manufacturing facility, to speak out for the USMCA and our industry.
Coming from a manufacturing state, Vice President Pence knows that manufacturers make America—and that our country's strength relies on this industry's success.

Tax reform and regulatory certainty championed by this administration served as rocket fuel for manufacturers, propelling manufacturing to new heights.

But now, we face new challenges brought on by global headwinds.

The good news is there are things we can do to continue the success of manufacturing in America. In the NAM's quarterly outlook survey of our 14,000 member companies, more than 60 percent of respondents said that trade uncertainties are a challenge.

And that's why we're here today calling on Congress to ratify the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.

Twenty-five years ago, the North American Free Trade Agreement helped expand access to Canada and Mexico, but our industry has transformed since then. NAFTA is now in need of an update—a new set of standards for the 21st-century economy—which is exactly why the administration negotiated the USMCA.

Now it's time for Congress to pass it.

For manufacturers like SCHOTT, the USMCA would provide best-in-class intellectual property rules, set new standards for innovation and the modern digital economy, eliminate red tape at the border, improve transparency and ensure we can sell products duty free and much more.

Why is that so important?

SCHOTT earns more than three-quarters of its sales from consumers outside of the United States. These sales support good jobs for SCHOTT's workers and a better economy for everyone. For so many manufacturers, expanding access to international markets is critical.

And the most important trading markets are Canada and Mexico, which alone purchase more U.S.-manufactured goods than our next 11 trading partners *combined*—despite representing less than 4 percent of the global economy.

That's why manufacturers are raising our voices in unison, calling on Congress to ratify this agreement and provide businesses with a level playing field and certainty to compete, grow and win in the global market.

The Speaker of the House said recently that her party is "on a path to yes." So let's get to the destination and pass the USMCA this year.

In Pennsylvania, more than 3,000 manufacturing firms export to Canada and Mexico, and North American exports support about 43,000 Pennsylvania manufacturing jobs.

Strengthening the manufacturing industry means strengthening communities like Duryea and providing high-paying jobs for the men and women who make things in America.

That also means that you have a big role to play in getting this across the finish line. Manufacturing workers make a powerful difference. We hear it over and over again from members of Congress.

As you leave here today, let your voices be heard and tell your members of Congress that a vote for the USMCA is a vote for America's manufacturing workers.