

March 10, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The undersigned associations, representing tens of thousands of manufacturers and their employees in the United States, respectfully urge you to support continued funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) as you develop your FY18 budget.

The MEP is a national network of public-private partnerships that provides small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) technology-based services they need to thrive in today's economy and to help create well-paying modern manufacturing jobs. These services enable manufacturers to compete globally, support greater supply chain integration, and provide access to information, training, and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

The MEP is a solid investment which has helped increase the competitiveness of manufacturers since its creation in 1988. The thousands of manufacturers that interacted with the MEP in FY2016 reported \$9.3 billion in new and retained sales, more than 86,000 new and retained jobs, and \$1.4 billion in cost savings based on a survey of MEP center clients by an outside third party about the program's impact. MEP clients are also increasing their capacity for the production of goods. Additionally, manufacturers reported \$3.5 billion in new investments directly attributed to their work with the MEP.

Modern manufacturers are increasingly technology-driven and the MEP facilitates the industry's ability to develop and deploy innovative products and processes. As you develop your FY18 budget with a focus on revitalizing the nation's manufacturing industry, we urge you to support continued funding for the MEP.

Sincerely,

Adhesive and Sealant Council
Alaska Chamber
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Gear Manufacturers Association
American Small Manufacturers Coalition
AMT-The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Associated Industries of Missouri
Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
Consumer Specialty Products Association
Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International

Fibre Box Association
Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Greater North Dakota Chamber
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Industrial Truck Association
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries
ISSA - The Worldwide Association for the Cleaning Industry
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Measurement, Control & Automation Association
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Montana Manufacturing Association
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
Nevada Manufacturers Association
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society
North Carolina Chamber
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Plastics Pipe Institute
Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association
Resilient Floor Covering Institute
Rhode Island Manufacturers Association
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Spika Design & Manufacturing, Inc.
Texas Association of Business