

Jay Timmons
President and CEO

October 24, 2013

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), thank you for your outstanding leadership on issues to make manufacturing more competitive in the United States. Your commitment to advancing bipartisan, commonsense solutions to the challenges facing the manufacturing community through the Manufacturing Jobs for America Initiative is very much appreciated.

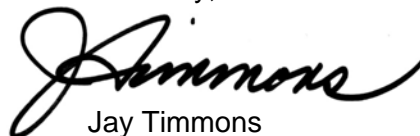
As you know, manufacturers face a stunning 20 percent cost disadvantage when compared to our major international trading partners, and that figure does not include labor costs. This unfortunate reality is one we have imposed on ourselves and is driven by tort, energy, tax and regulatory policies. While we are currently experiencing energy cost advantage, it is not nearly enough to overcome all of the other cost burdens imposed on manufacturers by Washington. Just as critical is the fact that manufacturers face tremendous challenges in finding qualified workers to fill open positions because of a lack of necessary skills.

The Manufacturing Jobs for America Initiative that supports pro-growth, pro-jobs policies in energy, tax, regulatory and workforce policy and other areas has the potential to provide a critical path towards bipartisan agreement on issues facing manufacturers and their employees.

The manufacturing sector is still struggling to recover from the 2.3 million jobs lost during the difficult recession of 2008 and 2009. While 500,000 jobs have since been created, we still have a long road to travel. A growth agenda, that includes some of the bills that are part of the Manufacturing Jobs for America effort, is key to creating an environment to encouraging job creation.

Thank you again for your leadership and we look forward to continuing to work together to advance the interests of manufacturers in America and their employees.

Sincerely,


Jay Timmons